The Belman of London.

BRINGING TO LIGHT THE *MOST NOTORIOUS*

Villanies that are now practised in the Kingdome.

Profitable for Gentlemen, Lawyers, Merchants, Cittizens, Farmers, Masters of Housholdes, and all sorts of seruants to marke, and delightfull for all men to reade.

Lege, Perlege, Relege.

The [illegible]th impression, with new additions.

Printed at London for Nathaniell Butter. 1616.

A Table of the Principall matters contayned in this Booke.

A Diſcouerie of all the idle Vagabonds in England: their conditions: their Lawes amongſt themſelues: their degrees and orders: their meetings and their manners of liuing, both men and women.

A diſcouery of certaine ſecret villanies, which borrowe to themſelues the names of Lawes.

A S

Cheating Law.	Bernards Lawe.
Vincents Law.	The black Art.
Curbing Law.	Prigging Law.
Lifting Lawe.	High Law.
Sacking Law.	Frigging Law.

Fiue Iumpes at Leape-frog.

The

The poore BELMAN of London,

To all those that either by office are sworne to punish, or in their owne loue to vertue, wish to haue the disorders of a state amend, Humbly dedicateth these his discoueries.

AT your *Gates* the *Belman* of London beateth, to awaken your eies, to looke backe after certaine *Grand* and common abuses, that daily walke by you, keeping aloofe (in corners) out of the reach of Law. It must be the hand of your authoritie that must fetch in these *Rebels* to the weale-publike, and your arme that must strike them: I chuse you as Patrons, (not to my booke) but to defend me from those MONSTERS, whose dennes I breake open in this my discouerie. More dangerous they are to a State, then a *Ciuill warre*, because their villanies are more subtill and more enduring. The *Belman* notwithstanding hath plaid the *Owle* (who is the *Embleme* of wisdome) for sleeping in the day, as abhorring to behold the impieties of this last and worst age of the world. In the night therfore hath he stolne forth, and with the helpe of his Lanthorne and Candle (by which is figured circumspection) hath hee brought to light, that broode of mischiefe, which is ingendered in the wombe of darkenesse. A monstrous birth is it, and therfore worthy to bee looked at: from monstrous parents doth it proceede, and therfore the sight of it to be fearefull. But of such rare temper are your eyes, that (as if they had sunbeames in them) they are able to exhale vp all these contagious breaths which poyson a Kingdome, & so to sperse

them into thin aire, that they shall vtterly vanish, and bee no more offensiue. In this blacke shore of mischiefe haue I seyled along, and beene a faithfull discouerer of all the crookes, rockes, gulfes and quick-sands, that and about it: Bee you therfore as second aduenturers, and furnish men armed with Iustice, and well furnished in all points, with a desire to conquer these Sauages, and send them to set strong and fearfull footing amongst them. It shall be honour to your selues, and them, and a rich benefit to the *Republik* wherein you liue. For my owne part I vow, that as I dedicate these my labours to your hand, so will I deuote my life to the safety of my Countrie, in defending her from these serpents. I will wast out mine eies with my candles, and watch from midnight till the rising vp of the morning: my *Bell* shall euer be ringing, and that faithfull seruant of mine (the Dog that follows me) be euer biting of these wilde beastes, till they bee all driuen into one heard, and so haunted into the toiles of the *Law*. Accept therefore of this *Night-prize* (my *Graue* and worthy *Patrons*) drawne rudely, and presented bouldly, because I know the colors layd vpon it, are not counterfeit as those of borrowd beauties: but this is a picture of *Villanie*, drawen to the life, of purpose that life might bee drawne from it. None can bee offended with it but such as are guilty to themselues, that they are such as are inrold in this maister booke, for whose anger, or whose stab, I care not. At no mans bosome doe I particularly strike, but only at the boby of *Vice* in Generall: if my maner of *Fight* (with these dangerous masters of the *Ignoblest Science* that euer was in any Kingdome) do get but plause, the *Belman* shal shortly bid you to another *Prize*, where you shal see him play at other kind of weapons.

Deuoted night and day yours,

The Belman of London.

THE
Belman of London.

Discouering the most notable villanies now in the Kingdome.

THe worlde at the first was made of nothing, and shall at the last be consumed to nothing. The fashion of it is round, for as a Circle is the most perfect figure, so this, the rarest and most absolute frame, that euer the Creator made. It was indeed (excepting that which was like himselfe) his Maister peice.

In this great world did he place a little world (and as the lesser wheeles in a clock being set a going, giues motion to the greatest, and serues them as guides) so that little world (called man) doth by his Art, office and power, controule the greater: yet is there such a harmony in both their motions, that though in quantitie they differ farre, yet they agree in quality: and though the one was made somewhat before the other, yet are they so like, that they seeme to be instruments belonging to one Engine. For man is made vp by the mixture of foure complections, Bloud, Flegme, Choller, and Melancholly. The world is a ball made vp of foure Elements, Water, Ayre, Earth, and Fire, yea these very Elements haue likewise parts in him. The world is circular, so is man, for let him stand vpright and extend forth his armes to the length, A line drawne from his nauell to all the vtmost limits of his body, makes his body Orbiculer. And as man hath seuen

ages, Infancie, Child-hood, Youth and olde age: so hath the world in which foure measures of time are filled out, the Risinges and fallings, the growings vp and the witherings both of the one and the other.

Discriptiō of the 4 ages of the World.

The Infancy of the world was the golden age (not so called because men had at that time more gold then they haue now,) for not to deceiue you, there was (then) not a peece of gold stirring, but as this sacred mettall is the purest that the earth can bring forth, so the golden age was the best of all the foure and the most blessed: For then all the earth was but one garden, where (without planting) grew all sorts of trees, which (without grafting) carryed all sortes of fruites: the ground was not wrinckled with furrowes, for there were then no Plough-men to misuse her beauty:

Golden age.

the Seas was not rugged, for there were then no ships to vnrude her body: there were no countries, for there were no Kinges: all the world was but one Land, and all the people in it but one Nation; who knew not how to obey any, because none amongst them had a desire to commaund: their houses were the shadowy coverings of trees, & their stateliest buildings were grauen bowes, Iustice in those daies had eies, & pitty eares, for none could complaine of wrong and not be relæued, nor any cry out for want who were not satisfied: Oppression was either then not borne, or if shee were in the world she had no hands to strike, or if shee did strike, the blowes were no other then such as when with a sword we cut the water, they did no harme. The Law (in this golden time) got no gold: there were neither Counsellors to pleade, nor Atturneys to plodde vp and downe: the name of a Fee taking was not knowne: there were no Clyents, and therefore no Courts kept, neither Tearme nor Vacations: what a merry world was this? The frozen hailes of winter, nor the pestilent scorching breath of Summer did not then destroy the fruites of the earth: there was no Autumne, for there was no yeare; the whole yeare was but one month, and that month was euer, nay, it was a continuall Spring, so that man (the Emperour of earth) grew proud, insolent, and saucie: the fulnesse of this happinesse making him swell into such a disdaine of the gods, that hee preferred the vizeroy-ship of this lower kingdom (bestowed vpon him by them) and the

the pleasures vpon which he forfeited heere, before those felicities which they enioy'd aboue. Whereupon as men in those dayes, so did the Gods in those, hould vp to themselues that Golden age: they tooke it away from mortals, because they were vnworthy of it, and on a sudden changed it into white money, so that the Golden age became the Siluer.

The siluer age.

As those two mettals (of Gold and Siluer) are in degrees of baseness one to another, So were those two ages in degrees of Badnes. The Siluer age was worse then the former: the change of mettalls brought in the chang of manners: for now men pluck feathers from the winges of Ambition, and with those plumes laboured to flie one aboue another; their Braines now wrought day and night how to frame tooles to cut downe trees, of those trees to build houses, of those houses to set vp Cities, of those Cities to raise Kingdomes, and from those Kingdomes to deuise soueraignties. In this Siluer-Cradle of the world, Arts were borne, and Trades put to nurse, Time hauing not got siluer haires on his head (but as yet it was not balde) prouided himselfe of a sickle and a glasse full of sand: with the one did he teach men how to deuide the Seasons into quarters, moneths, weekes, dayes and houres: with the other, how to cut downe Corne: For foure Princes did now by course rule the yeare: two of them mild, two of them cruell: two of them were liberall, full of mirth, ful of maiestie, full of beauty: the other two were hard fauour'd, dogged, addicted to melancholly, to diseases, to hate mankinde, to hurt the earth, and to rob that both of all that the former two had giuen to them. This Siluer-age of the world, was the worlds Childehood, and therefore like a childe it grew wayward and inconstant: It was apt to fall out, and same to be pleased, as you may see the whelps of Lions wanton at first, and ready to playe euen with infants, and not to harme them, with whom afterwardes armed men dare not encounter. So in this second play vppon the great Theater of the world, men shewed like shepheards (simple) they had power to do hurt, but not a will to doe it: a care they had more to prouide for themselues, then to iniurie others. If this siluer-threed of mans life had still beene spun, man had liued in a reasonable happines. But the Fates (enuious euer of his good) cut

4 seasons of the yeare.

it off;

it off: and at the last, in stead of this siluer maske which the worlde wore, did she (being turnd strumpet) put on a Brazen face. Hauing that on, she grew impudent, lasciuious and lustfull, yet was she not altogether past modestie, but fell into the company of Vices, and so at length into a loue of them, beeing rather deceiued with the goodly shapes they carryed, then delighted with their doings.

The Brazen age.

This was the lusty age of the worlde, when men knew their strengthes, and had desire to trie them: their veines were full of blood, and itched to be let out: But warre was not yet begotten, and as in a ciuill kingdome, when Sedition is deuising plots how to set the state in an vproare, she looketh wildely, walkes distractedly, and speakes ambiguously: her very face seruing as a Calender, wherin men may reade what stormes shall follow, the time when they shall fall, or how, or where, is not set downe. So at this brazen & third solid table of the world (who in her bosom was hatching vs countries) did men sit with countenances, wherein were ingrauen the pictures of troubled thoughts, which tolde that mischiefes were apt to breed there, though to be borne in another Age. The windes did now but begin to shake the earth, the shipwrack which it should suffer, was to be afterward: so long therefore as the world rested vpon this brazen pillar, men did but whet their swords: there was an Yron gate to bee opened, at which Warre should issue forth, and then was the time to strike.

Quickly therefore was this circle of Brasse broken in peeces, the glasse of this Third age was some runne out, and in the place of it was the Yron age turnd vp, the Yron age is that wherin we liue: it is the old age of the world that must bring the world to a graue: it is the last of foure, and the worst of foure: it is the basest, yet the proudest. In this Yron bed of Tyme what vnnaturall ingendrings, what preposterous birthes haue there beene? Deuotion hath lyen with Hipocrisie, Zeale with Coldnesse, Iustice with Partialitie, Valor with Furie, Learning with Pride, Pride with Ambition, Ambition with Treason, and Treason with Murder.

The Yron age.

In this bed was Auarice borne, monstrous in shape, and diuelish in conditions: her fingers are hookes, which Vsurers still are tying

fyling to keepe more sharpe then Taylors needles. In one hand shee holdes a lime-bush, in the other a net, a company of olde rednosd fellowes (of all trades some) spredding Birdlime continually vpon the one, and with strong Cordes still peecing vp the other. She whispers euerie morning in a Lawyers eare, what shee saies none knowes, but some thinke shee teaches him his prayers: shee goes attired like a Brokers wife, for her apparell is made of seuerall parcels, which by violence she hath torne from sundry backes: Shee feedes vppon gold, as the Estredge doth vpon Iron, and drinks siluer faster downe her crane-like throat than an English Cockatrice doth Hiphocras.

With this ill-fauoured hag came enuie into the world: they both are twins, and both looke like Staruelings: in bodies they somewhat resemble one another, but differ in minds, for the one couets to haue all to her selfe, the other cares for nothing: but pines away to the bare bones, with very griefe and madnesse, to see another enioy any thing.

The last of al these two furies (Enuie) was begotten by a player, & that makes her so lean: the other by a Dutch Burger, and that makes her haue such a belly. Now was the time (whilst this Yron milles of mischiefe were going) for war to set at the Anuile, whilst Swords, Billes, Pole-axes, Partizans, Guns, &c. were forged to destroy mankind: for till this rustie Iron world came vp, there was not an Armorer to be had for loue or money. Presently vpon this, priuate quarels were first pickt, which afterwards burst out into open maine battaiels, those battailes haue drawne whole kingdomes into faction, and those factions like so many fires, haue set the whole world in a combustion, but because Nations were so deuided one from another by the Seas (which lay like barres betweene them) Couetousnes and Ambition laid their hands together and inuented shippes.

Now was the Reuerend Oake (the King of the Forrest) who had stood so many yeares vnshaken and vndishonoured, laide groueling on the ground: the mountaines that before were glad to bee his foot-stooles, and were euen proud when hee stood vpright on their backes, did now send forth groanes at the report of his fall.

His Oaken browes must notwithstanding be vncrownd:

his aged body dismantled of his roabes, yea his very heart cleft spitefully in sunder, whilst his strong and tough ribbes bee puld from his sides, to make a Pageant that shall daunce on the Waters.

And now the Oake alone felt the misery of these great stroaks, but the tal Firrh-Tree was compeld likewise to leane the woods, where proudly he had stood so many yeares, and like a Slaue to followe a Saile, which way soeuer it should lead him. With these wodden Castles (which floated vp and downe like so many Townes, or rather like so many little Cities full of People) was the Kingdome of the Waues besieged, her Christall Walles battered, and her treasury rifled: The scaly Citizens being terrified with this boldnes of mankind, as hauing neuer seene any creatures but themselues to venture into their dominions, complayned to the Monarch of the Deepes, who in reuenge of this presumption, did not onely stucke Rockes in the playnest paths of his Kingdome, to make those inuadors stumble at them and so to fall headlong into Hell, but also consulted and conspired with the Windes, to be euer working their ouerthrow.

Neither was the Earth (which neuer before felt bruises) free from the blowes and wounds euen of those to whome shee gaue nourishment.

The World being all turnd thus to Yron, mens hearts were made of the same mettall, and like vnnatsrall Children misusde the Mother of vs all, mangling her bosome, cutting open her veines, and ripping vp her very bowels, compelling her not only to giue them common food to sustaine them, and fruits and flowers to satisfie their lust and pleasures: But thinking that the Golden and siluer worlds were hid in her entrals, euen amongst those do they barbarously rake to find riches. For this cause the Earth that at the beginning was vnto vs as a Mother, sheweth herselfe now as a Stepdame, her breasts out of which flowed (once) nothing but milke & hony to nourish vs, swelleth now with rank poyson to destroy vs.

But (alas) these moales are but small warts on the chekes of this Yron world, the great blemishes that make it seeme vgly, are not yet discouered.

Entring therfore into a contemplation of ỹ changes of Time,

how

how all things that are vnder the Moone are as variable as her lookes are: how Goodnes growes crooked, and hath almost lost her shape: how Vertue goes poorely and is not regarded: how Villany iettes in silks, and like a God adorde: And when I consider how al ẏ pleasures of this life are but as childrens dreames, how all the glories of the world are but artificiall Fire-workes that keepe a blazing for a time, and yet dye in stinking smoaks, and how all the labours of man are like the toyling of the winds, which striue to cast vp heaps of dust, that in the end are not worth the gathering. Then, euen then doe I grow weary of my selfe: then am I neither in loue with the beautie of the Sunne, neither stand I gazing at the dauncing of the starres: I neither wonder at the stately measures of the cloudes, the nimble galliards of the Water, nor the wanton trippings of the winde, nor am delighted when the earth dresses vpher head with flowers, I wish my selfe a Beast, because men are so bad, that Beastes do excell them in goodnes, & abhor all company, because the best is but tedious, the worser loathsome, both are the destroyers of time, and both must be maintained with cost.

Since then, that in the Noblest streames there are such Whirlepooles to swallow vs vp, such Rockes that threaten daunger (if not Ship-wracke,) and such Quicke-sandes to make vs sinke: who would not willingly take downe all the Sailes of his ambition, and cast Anchor on a safe and retired shore which is to be found in no place, if not in the Countrey? O blessed life! patterne of that which our first Parentes ledde, the state of Kinges (now) beeing but a slauerie to that of theirs.

The praise of the Countrie life.

O schoole of contempation! O thou picture of the whol world, drawn in a little compasse! O thou Prospectiue glasse, in whom wee may behold vpon earth, al the frame and wonders of heauen! How happy (how thrice happy) is hee that not playing with his winges in the Golden flames of the Court, nor setting his foots into the busie throngs of the Cittie, nor running vp and downe in the intricate mazes of the Law, can bee content in the Winter to sit by a Country fier, and in the summer to lay his head on the greene pillowes of the earth, where his sleepe shall bee soft slum-

 bers,

ters, and his wakings pleasant as golden dreames. Hast thou a desire to rule, get vp to the mountaines, and thou shalt see the greatest trees stand trembling before thee to doe thee reuerence, those maist thou call thy Nobles: thou shalt haue ranckes of Oakes on each side of thee, which thou maist call thy Guard: thou shalt see willowes bending at euery blast, whome thou maiest call thy flatterers: thou shalt see vallies humbled at thy feete, whom thou maiest tearme thy slaues. Wouldest thou behold battailes? step into the fields, there shalt thou see excellent combatings betweene the standing Corne and the Windes. Art thou a tyrant and delightest in the fall of Great ones? muster then thy Harueisters together, and downe with those proud Summer Lordes, when they are at the highest. Wouldest thou haue Subsidies paid thee? The Plow sends thee in Corne, the Meadow giues thee her pasture, the Trees pay custome with their fruit, the Oxe bestowes vpon thee his labour, the Sheep his woll. Dost thou call for musicke? No prince in the world keepes more skilfull musitians: the Birds are thy consort, and the wind instruments they play vpon, yeelden thousand tunes. Art thou addicted to studie? Heauen is thy Lybrarie, the Sunne, Moone and Stars are thy Bookes, and teach thee Astronomie: By obseruing them, thou makest Almanackes to thy selfe, that serue for all seasons. That great Volumne is thine Ephemerides, out of which thou maiest calculate the predictions of times to followe: yea, in the verie cloudes are written lessons of Diuinity for thee, to instruct thee in wisdome: the turning ouer their leaues, teach thee the variations of seasons; and how to dispose thy businesse for all weathers. If the practise of Phisicke delight thee what Aphorismes can all the Doctours in the world set downe more certaine? what rules for good diet can they draw out more singuler? what medecines for health can they compound more restorative? what vertues can all their Extracted Quintessenses instill into our bodies more soueraign, than those which the earth of her owne bountie bestowes for our preseruation, and whose working powers are dayly experimented in Beastes for our example? O you plants of the fields, and you flowers of the garden (natures Apothecaries, and Earthes Chirurgians) your stalkes

are

are slender, yet you your selues are the chiefest pillars that vphold mans life: what clearnes doth the sight receiue only in beholding you? what comfort does the Sence of smelling finde only in yours? sauours: and how many that haue had halfe their bodies in their graues, haue beene brought backe againe onely by your sacred Iuices? Who therefore would not consume his youth in the company of these creatures, that haue power in them to keepe off old age longer then it would, or when olde age doth come, are able to giue it the liuelihood and vigour of youth: who would not rather sit at the foot of an hill tending a flocke of sheepe, then at the helme of Authority, controuling the stubbornes of vnruly multitudes? better it is in the solitarie Woodes, and in the wilde fields, to bee a man among beasts, then in the midest of a peopled Citie, to bee a beast among men. In the homely village art thou more safe, then in a fortified Castle: the stings of Enuy, or the Bullets of Treason, are neuer shot through those thinne walles: Sound healths are drunke out of the wholsome wooden dish, when the cup of golde boyles ouer with poyson. The countrie cottage is neither battred downe with Cannon in time of warre, nor pestred with clamorous suits in time of Peace. The fall of Cedar, that tumble from the toppes of Kingdomes, the Ruine of great houses, that bury families in their owne throwe, and the noyse of Shipwrackes, that beget cold shakes in the hearts of Cities, neuer send their terrours thither: that place stands as safe from the shocke of such violent stormes, as the Bay-tree does from lightning.

The admiration of these beauties made mee so enamoured, and so really in loue with the inheritors of them, that the flames of my affection were (in their burning) onely carried thither. So that instead of paued streets, I trod the vnbeaten pathes of the fields, the ranks of the Trees were to me as great buildings, Lambes and skipping Kids, were as my merry companions, the cleare fountaine as my cups of wine, roses and hearbes as the table of an Ordinary, the Dialogues of birds as the Sceanes of a Play, and the open empty meadowes as the proud and populous Cittie. Thus did I wish to liue, thus to dye: and hauing wandred long (like a Timonist) hating men because they

dishonoured their creation. At length fortune led mee by the hand into a place so curiously built by nature, as if it had beene the Pallace where shee purposed none should lie but her selfe: It was a Groue set thicke with Trees, which grew in such order, that they made a perfect circle, insomuch that I stode in feare, it was kept by Fayries, and that I was brought into it by enchantment. The branches of the Trees (like so many handes) reached ouer one to another, and in their imbracementes held so fast together, that their boughes made a goodly greene roofe, which beeing touched by the winde, it was pleasure to behold so large a seeling to moue: vpon euery branch sate a consort of singers, so that euery Tree shewed like a Musike roome. The floore of this summer-house was paued al ouer with yelow-field flowers, and with white and red dazies, vpon which the Sunne casting but a wanton eye, you would haue sworne the one had beene nailes of Gold, the other studdes of enamelled Siluer. Amazed I was when I did but looke into this little Paradice, and afraid to enter, doubting whether it were some hallowed ground or no, for I could find no path that directed mee to it: neither the foot of any man, nor the hoofe of any beast had beaten downe the Grasse: for the blades of it stood so euen and so euen, as if their lengthes had beene giuen them by one measure. The melodye which the Birds made, and the varieties of all sorts of fruites which the Trees promised, with the pretty and harmelesse murmuring of a shallow streame, running in windings through the middest of it (whose noise went like a chime of Bels, charming the eyes to sleepe) put me in minde of that Garden whereof our great Grandsire was the keeper, I euen wept for sorrow to think he should bee so foolish, as to bee driuen from a place of such happines, & blamed him in my mind for leauing such a president behind him because by his fall wee lost his felicity, and by his frailty all men are now apt to vndoe themselues and their posterity through the inticements of women.

Into this Groue therefore at last I did venter, resoluing to make it the Temple where my thoughts should spend themselues in fruitefull contemplation: I purposed to deuide the day into acts, as if the ground had beene a stage, and that the life which

which there I ment to lead, should haue bẽn but as a play.

Some of my houres should haue runne out in Speculation of the admirall workemanship of Heauen and of the orders which the Celestiall bodies are gouerned by: some of my houres should haue caried me vp and downe the earth, and haue shewen vnto me the qualities and proportions of the creatures that breede vpon it: At another time would I haue writen Satyres against the impiety of the world: At another, I would haue chaunted Roundelayes, in honour of the Country life.

The rest of my time should haue fetched in prouision for my bodie. Theese were appointed to be my Actes in this godly Theater: the Musicke betweene were the Singers of the Wood, the audience such as Orpeus plaide vnto, and those were Mountaines and Trees who (vnlesse the whispering windes troubled them with their noise) would haue bene very attentiue. But whilst I setting forth to runne this Goale, behold, casting vp mine eye, I espied a farre off certayne cloudes of Smoake, whose vapours ascended vppe so blacke and thicke into the Element, as if the sighes of Hell had burst the Bowels of the Earth, and were flying vp toward Heauen, to pull downe more vengeance.

Before I saw this, I beleeued that this place had bene free from all resort, desirous therefore to learne who they were that neighboured so nie and in a solitarie Wood, (that stood so far from inhabited buildings) I crept forward, came to the place which (what by nature and what by Art) was so fenced about with Trees, quick set hedges and bushes, which were growne so high (that but for the smoake) it was not possible to imagine how a house could there be builded, ther was but one path leading to it, which (after much searching & many turnings) being found, boldly went I on, and arriued at a homely cottage: the very doore of it put me in mind of that poore Inne of good Baucis and Philæmon, where a God was a guest, for it was so low, that euen a dwarfe might haue seemed a tall man entring into it, so much would it haue made him stoope. This House stood not like Great mens places alwaies shut, but wide open, as if bounty had bene the porter, & being within, it seemd Hospitality dwelt there, and had giuen

giuen you welcome. For there was a Table ready couered, with faire linnen, nut-browne round trenchers lay in good order, with bread and salt, keeping their state in the middle of the board. The roome it selfe was not sumptuous but handsome, of indifferent bignes, but not very large: the windowes were spread with hearbs, the chimney drest vp with greene boughes, and the flo, strewed with bulrushes, as if some lasse were that morning to be married: but neither saw I any bride or bride-groome nor heard I any musicke, onely the next roome (which was the kitchen, and into which I went) was there as much stirring, as commonly is to be seene in a Booth, vppon the first day of the opening of a Faire. Some sate turning of spits, and the place being all smoaky, made me thinke on hell, for the ioynts of meat lay as if they had beene broyling in the infernall fier: the turne spits (who were poore tottered greasie fellowes) looking like so many hee-deuils. Some were basting and seemed like fiends powring scalding oyle vpon the damned: others were mincing of pye-meat, and shewed like hangmen cutting vp of quarters, whilst another whose eies glowed with the heat of the fier, stood poaking in at the mouth of an Ouen, torturing soules as it were in the furnace of Lucifer. There was such chopping of hearbes, such tossing of Ladles, such plucking of Geese, such scalding of Pigges, such singing, such scolding, such laughing, such swearing, and such running too and fro, as if Pluto had that day bidden all his friends to a feast, and that these had beene the Cookes that drest the dinner.

At the last espying an old nimble-tongd beldam who seemed to haue the commaund of the place, to her I stepped, and in faire termes requested to know the name of the dwelling, why this great chere was prouided, and who were the Guests, for as yet I saw no body but this Maud of the Blacke Guard. Instead of her tongue, her eies (that had started backe a good way into her head, as if they durst not looke out) made me an answere. I perceiued by her very countenance, that I was not welcome, which afterward she confirmed in words, telling me the place was not for me, the Feast was for others, and that I must instantly bee gone, for that a strange kinde of people were that day to bee

merrie

merry there. No Rhetoricke that I could vse, had power to win her to discouer who these Guests should be, til at the length a Bribe prevailing more then a Parlee, she told me I should bee a Spectator of the Comedy in hand, and in a private gallerie behold all the Actors, vpon condition I would sit quietly and say nothing. And for that purpose was I conuaid into an vpper loft, where (vnseene) I might (though a wooden Latice that had the prospect of the dining roome) both see and heare all that was to be done or spoken.

There lay I like a Scoute to discouer the comming of the expected enemie, who was to set vpon this good cheare, and to batter downe the Walles of hot Pies and Pasties. Mine eyes euen aked with staring towards the doore, to spie when these States should enter, ducking downe with their heads like so many Geese going into a Barne. At length (with bagge and baggage) they came dropping in one after another, sometimes three in a company, sometimes fiue, now more, now lesse, till in the end the great Hall was so full that it swarmed with them. I know you wonder, and haue longing thoughts to know what Generation this is, that liued in this hospitable familiarity: but let me tel you they are a people for whom the world cares not, neither care they for the world: they are all freemen, yet scorne to liue in Cities: great trauellers they are, and yet neuer from home: poore they are, and yet haue their dyet from the best mens Tables: They are neither old Seruingmen (for all I say they are poore) that haue been Courtiers, and are now past carying of cloake-bags: nor yong gallants that haue serued in the low Countries, (albeit many of them go vppon wooden legs) nor hungry scholers, that all their life time haue kept a wrangling in the schools and in the end are glad to teach Children their Horne-bookes: neyther are they decayed Poets, whose wits like a soles Land, hold out but a twelue month, and then they liue vpon the scraps of other mens inuention: no nor players they bee, who out of an ambition to weare the best Jerkin (in a Strowting company) or to act great parts, forsake the stately and our more then Romaine Citty stages, to trauaile vpon the hard horse from village to village for cheese and butter-milk: neither are they any of those terrible noises (with three bare cloakes) that liue by red lattises and Jury-bushes, hauing authority to thrust into any mans

roome, onely speaking this, Will you haue any Muſicke? Neither are they Cittizens, that haue béene blowne vp (without Gunpowder) and by that meanes haue béene free of the Grate at Ludgate, ſome fiue times: no, no, this is a Ging of good fellowes in whom there is more Bath then howe. This is a Crew that is not the Damned Crew (for they walke in Sattin) but this is the Ragged Regiment: Villaines they are by birth, Varlets by education, Knaues by profeſſion, Beggars by the ſtatute, and Rogues by act of Parliament. They are the idle drones of a Countrie, the Caterpillers of a Common wealth, and the Ægyptians of a Kingdoome. And albeit that at other times their attire was fitting to their trade of liuing, yet now were they all in handſome cleane linnen, becauſe this was one of their Quarter dinners: for you muſt vnderſtand, that (as afterward I learnt by intelligence) they hold theſe ſolemne méetings in foure ſeuerall ſeaſons of the yeare at leaſt, and in ſeuerall places to auoyd diſcouery.

The whole aſſembly béeing thus gathered togither, One amongſt the reſt, who tooke vpon him a Seniority ouer the reſt, charg'd euery man to anſwere to his name, to ſée if the Jury were full: The Bill by which hée meant to call them béeing a double Jug of ale (that had the ſpirit of Aquavitæ in it, it ſmelt ſo ſtrong) and that hée held in his hand: Another ſtanding by with a toaſt Nutmeg and Ginger, ready to cry *Vous auez* as they were cald, and all that were in the roome hauing ſingle pottes by the eares which like Piſtolls were charged to goe off ſo ſoone as euer they heard their names. This Ceremony béeing ſet abroach, an O-yes was made: But hée that was Rector Chory (the Captain of the Tatterdemalions) eſpying one to march vnder his Cullors, that had neuer before ſerued in thoſe lowſie warres, pawſed awhile (after hée had taken his firſt draught, to taſt the dexteritie of the liquor) and then began (Juſtice like) to examine this Yonger Brother vpon Interrogatories:

The firſt queſtion he demanded, was, if hée were cald to the Rogue no? The poore Hungarin anſwered yes, hée was: Then was hée aſked by whom he was cald, and where, and in what manner of complement it was done? To which queſtion the nouice hauing not ſo much beggarly knowledge as might make a learned reply, forthwith did the wicked Elder command the young Slauonions that ſtoode about him, to diſfurniſh him that

was so unskilfull in the Rudiments of Rogery, of his best garment, and to carry it presently to the Bowling Ken (that was to say, to the Tappe-house) and there to pawne it for so much strong Ale, as could be ventured upon it. Thus the chiefe Rag-a-muffen gane in charge, the rest obeyed and did so, whilest the other suffered himselfe to be stript, and durst not resist their base authority.

This done, the Grand Signior called for a Gage of Bowse, which belike signified a quart of drinke, for presently a pot of Ale being put into his hand, he made the young Squire kneele down, and powring the full pot on his pate, uttered these words:

I doe stall thee to the Rogue, by vertue of this soueraigne English liquor, so that henceforth it shall bee lawfull for thee to Cant (that is to say) to bee a Vagabond and begge, and to speake that Pedlers French, or that Canting language, which is to bee found among none but Beggars: with that the stalled Gentleman rose, all the rest in the roome hanging upon him for ioy, like so many dogs about a Beare, and leaping about him with shoutes, like so many mad men.

But a Silence being proclaimed, all were hushed, whilest he that played the Master Deuils part amongst these Hell-hounds, after a shrugge or two given, thus began to speake to him that was new entred into the damned fraternity: Brother Begger, quoth hee, because thou art yet but a meere freshman in our Colledge, I charge thee to hang thine eares to my lips, and to learne the orders of our house, which thou must obserue, upon paine eyther to bee beaten with our cudgels, the next time thou art met, or else to bee stript out of any garments that are worth the taking from thee. First therefore (being no better then a plaine ordinary Rogue, marry in time thou mayest rise to more preferment amongst vs) thou art not to wander vp and downe all Countries, but to walke onely like an Vnder-keeper of a Forrest, in that quarter which is allotted vnto thee: Thou art likewise to giue way vnto any of vs that haue born all the offices of the Wallet before thee, and vpon holding vp a finger to auoyde any Towne or Country Village, where thou seest wee are forraging to victuall our army that march along with vs: For (my poore Villiaco) thou must know, that there are degrees of Superiority and Inferiority in our Society, as there

are in the proudest company. We haue amongst vs fom eighteen or nineteene seuerall offices for men, and about seuen or eight for women: The chiefest of vs are called Vpright-men. O my deare Sun-burnt-brother, if all those that are the chiefest men in other Companies were Vpright-men too, what good dealing would there be in all Occupations? The next are Rufflers: then haue we Anglers, but they seldome catch Fish, till they goe vp westward for Flounders: then are there Rogues (which liuery thou thy selfe wearest) next are wilde Rogues, then Priggers, then Palliards, then Fraters, then Tom of Bedlams band of mad caps, otherwise called Poore Toms flocke of Wildegeese (whom here thou seest by his blacke and blew naked armes to bee a man beaten to the world) and those wild Geese or haire-braines are called Abraham-men: in the nert squadron march our braue Whipiackes, at the tayle of them come crawling our counterfeit Crankes: in another troupe are Gabling Dromerers, then Curtals follow at their heeles, and they bring along with them strange Engineers, called Irish-Toyles: After whom follow the Swigmen, the Iarkmen, the Patricoes, and last, the Kinchincoes. These are the tottered Regiments, that make vp our mayne Army. The Victualers to the Campe are Women, and of those, some are Glymerers, some Bawdy-Baskets, some Autem-morts; others Walking-Morts, some Doxies, others are Dels: the last and least are called Kinchin-Morts, with all which Comrades, thou shalt in thy beggerly peregrination, meete, conuerse, and bee drunke, and in a short time know their natures and roguish conditions without the helpe of a Tutor. At these words the victuals came smoaking into the Hall to bee set vpon the bord, whereupon the whole swarme squatted downe, being as vncivill in manners, as vnhansome in apparell, onely the Vpright-men and Rufflers had the grace of the board giuen them, and sate at vpper end of the table: the rest tooke their trenchers as they happed into their hands, yet so, that euery knaue had his queane close by his side.

The Table being thus furnished both with Guests and meate, in stead of Grace, euery one drew out a knife, rapt out a round oath, and cryed Proface, you mad Rogues, and so fell to. They fed more hungerly, then if they had come from the siege of Ierusalem: not a word was heard amongst them for a long time, onely

onely their teeth made a noyse, as if so many Mils had beene grinding. Rats going to the assault of a Holland Cheese could not more valiantly lay about them: nay, my L. Maiors hounds at the dog-house, being bidden to the funerall banquet of a dead Horse, could not picke the bones cleaner. At length when the platters beganne to looke leane, and their bellies grew plumpe, then went their tongues: But such a noyse made they, such a confusion was there of beggerly tales, some gabling in their Canting language, others in their owne, that the scolding at ten conduits, and the gossipping of fifteene bake-houses was delicate musicke to it. At the length, drunken healthes rold vp and downe the Table, & then it would haue made a Physitian himselfe sicke, but to haue looked vpon the waters that came from them. The whole roome shewed a farre off (but that there was heard such a noyse) like a Dutch peece of Drollerie, for they sate at Table as if they had beene so many Antickes: A Painters prentice could not draw worse faces then they themselues made, besides those which God gaue them: no, nor a Painter himself vary a Picture into more strange and more ill fauoured Gestures than were to bee seene in the action of their bodies: for some did nothing but weepe and protest loue to their Morts, another swore daggers and knives to cut the throat of his Doxye, if her found her tripping: Some slept being drowned so deepe in Ale-drugs, that they slauered againe: others sung bawdy songs, another crew deuised curses vpon Iustices of Peace, Headboroughs and Constables, grinning their teeth so hard together for anger, that the grating of a saw in a Stone-cutters yard, when it files in sunder the ribs of marble, makes not a more horrible noyse. In the end, one who tooke vpon him to bee speaker to the whole house bidding the French and English pore on their yelping throats) (cryed out for silence, telling them it was his turne (according to the Customes of their meeting) to make an Oration in prayse of Beggery, and of those that professe the Trade: Hereupon (as if an Owle had hapned amongst so many Birds) all their eyes did presently stare vpon him, who thus began.

My Noble hearts, old Weather-beaten fellowes, and braue English Spirits, I am to giue you that which al the Land knowes you iustly deserue (a Roguish commendation) and you shall haue it, I am to giue Beggars their due praise,

yet what nede I doe that, sithence no man (I thinke) will take any thing from them that is their due. To be a Beggar, is to be a Braue man, because tis now in fashion for very braue men to beg: but what a Rogue am I to build vp your honours vpon examples? Do wee not all come into the world like arrant Beggars, without a rag vpon vs? do wee not all goe out of the world like Beggars, sauing onely an olde sheete to couer vs? and shall wee not walke vp and downe in the world like Beggars, with old blankets pind about vs? yes, yes, wee will, roared all the Kennell as though it had bene the Dogs of Paris Garden: Peace, cryes the Penilesse Orator, and with a Hem proceedes.

What though there be Statutes to burne vs ith eares for Rogues? to sindge vs ith hands for Pilferers? to whip vs at posts for being Beggars, and to shackle our heeles ith Stockes for being Vagabonds? What of this? Are there no other Statutes more sharpe then these to punish the rest of the Subiects, that scorne to be our companions? what though a prating Constable, or a red nosde Beadle say to one of vs, sirra Goodman Rogue, if I serued you well I should see you whipped through the town: Alas, alas, silly Animals, if all men should haue that which they deserue, wee should do nothing but play the Executioners and Tormenters one of another.

A number of Taylors would be damnde for keeping a Hel vnder their Shopboord: all the Brokers would make their Willes at Tyborne, if the searching for stolne goods which they haue receyued, should like a plague but once come amongst them: yea if all were serued in their right kind, two parts of the land should bee whipped at Bridewell for Lecherie, and three parts (at least) be set ith stockes for drunkennesse. The life of a Begger is the life of a Souldier: he suffers hunger and cold in Winter, and heat and thirst in Summer, hee goes lowse, he goes lame, he is not regarded, hee is not rewarded: Here onely shines his glory, the whole Kingdome is but his Walke, a whole City is but his Parish, in euery mans kitchin is his meat dreſt, in euery mans Seller lies his Beere, and the best mens purses keepe a penny for him to spend.

Since then the profession is ancient (as hauing bene from the beginning) and so generall, that all sorts of people make it their last refuge: Since a number of Artificers maintaine their houses

houſes by it, Since we and many a Thouſand more live merrily with it, let us my braue Tawny-faces, not giue vp our patched cloaks, nor chãge our coppies, but as we came beggars out of our mothers bellies, ſo reſolue and ſet vp your ſtaues vpon this, to returne like beggars into the bowels of the earth, Dixi.

Scarce was the word Dixi belch'd out of his rotten Alplungs, but all the Bench-whiſtlers from one end to the other, gaue a ringing Plaudite to the Epilogue of his ſpeech, in ſigne of approbation: whereupon they aroſe vp as confuſedly as they ſat down, and hauing paid ſo far as their purſes would ſtretch for what they had deuoured, making Ods in chalke for the reſt when they met there next, and euerie man with his Morr being aſſigned to their quarter, with order giuen, at what folloing Faires to ſhake hands and what Ale-buſh to tipple, with Items likewiſe giuen where to ſtrike downe Geeſe, where to ſteale Hens, & from what hedges to fetch ſheets, that may ſerue as pawnes awaie they departed.

Turba Grauis paci, placidæq; inimica Quieti.

No ſooner were their backes turnd, but I that all this while had ſtood in a corner (like a watching Candle, to ſee all their villanies, appeared in my likenes: and finding the Coaſt to be perfectly cleere, none remaining in the houſe but the Hoſteſſe to theſe Gueſtes, her did I Summon to a ſecond parlee. The ſpirit of her owne mault walkt in her brain-pan, ſo that, what with the ſweetnes of gaines which ſhe had gotten by her Merchant Venturers, and what with the fumes of drinke, which (like a luſtie gale to a wind mill) ſet her tongue in going, I found her apt for talke, and taking hold of this opportunity, after ſome intreaty to diſcouer to me what theſe Vp-right-men, Ruffiers and the reſt were, with their ſeuerall qualities and manners of life. Thus ſhe began.

An Vp-right-man.

YOu ſhall vnderſtand then (quoth ſhe) that the cheifeſt of thoſe that were my Table-men to day, are called Vpright-men, whoſe Picture I will drawe to the life before you: An Vp-right-man is a Sturdye Rig-bonde knaue, that ne-

uer

uer walkes but (like a commaunder) with a ſhort truncheon in his hand, which hée cals his Filchman, At markets, Faires, & other méetings, his voyce among Beggars is of the ſame ſound that a Conſtables is of: it is not to bée contrould. Hée is free of all the Shires in England, but neuer ſtayes in any place long, the reaſon is, his profeſſion is to bée idle, which béeing looked into, hée knowes is puniſhable, and therfore to auoid the whip, hée wanders. If hée come to a Farmers doore, the almes hée begges is neither meat nor drinke, but onely money: If any thing elſe bée offred to him, hée takes it with diſdaine and laies it vnder a hedge for any that come next: but in reuenge of this, if hée ſpie any géeſe, hens, duckes, or ſuch like walking ſpirits haunting the houſe, with them hée coniures about midnight, vſing them the next morning like traytors, eyther beheading them or quartering them in peices: for which purpoſe, this band of Vp-right-men ſildome march without fiue or ſixe in a company, ſo that Country people rather giue them money for feare, then out of any deuotion. After this bloudy maſſacre of the poore innocent pullen, the Actors in their bloudy Tragedie, repaire to their Stalling-kennes, and thoſe are tipling houſes, which will lend money vpon any ſtollen goods, and vnto which none but ſuch gueſts as theſe reſort: there the ſpits goe round, and the cans walke vp and downe: there haue they their Morts & their Doxies, with whom (after they haue bowſed profoundly) they lye (in ſtead of Featherbeds vpon litters of cleane ſtraw) to encreaſe the Generations of Rogues and Beggars: For theſe Vpright men ſtand ſo much vpon their reputation, that they ſcorne any Mort or Doxie ſhould be ſéene to walke with them: and indéed what néede they care for them, when hée may commaund any Doxie to leaue another man, and to lye with him: the other not daring to murmure againſt it.

An Vp-right-man will ſeldome complaine of want, for whatſoeuer any one of his profeſſion doth ſtealo, hée may challenge a ſhare in it, yea, and may command any inferiour Rogue to fetch in booty to ſerue his turne. Theſe carry the ſhapes of ſouldiers, and can talke of the Low-Countries, though they neuer were beyond Douer.

A Ruffler.

THe next in degree to him is called a Ruffler: the Ruffler and the Vp-right-man are so like in conditions, that you would sweare them brothers: they walke with cudgels alike, they professe Armes alike, though they bee both out at elbowes, and will sweare they lost their limbes in their Countries quarrell, when eyther they are lame by diseases, or haue beene mangled in some drunken quarrell: These commonly are fellowes that haue stood aloofe in the warres, and whilest others fought, they tooke their heeles, and ranne away from their Captaine, or else they haue beene Seruingmen, whom for their behauiour, no man would trust with a Liuery: if they cannot spend their daies to their minds, by their owne begging or robbing of Countrie people that come late from markets (for vpon those they most vsually exercise their trade) then doe they compell the inferiour subiects of their common wealth (as Rogues, Paliards, Morts, Doxies, &c.) to pay tribute vnto them. A Ruffler after a yeare or two, takes state vpon him, and becomes an Vpright man, (but no honest man.)

An Angler.

AN Angler is a limbe of an Vpright-man, as being deriued from him: their apparrell in which they walke is commonly freize Jerkins and gally slops: In the day time they begge from house to house, not so much for relieffe, as to spie what lyes fitte for their nottes, which in the night following they fish for. The Rodde they angle with, is a staffe of fiue or sixe foote in length, in which, within one inch of the top is a little hole boared quite through, into which hole they put an yron hooke, and with the same doe they angle at Windowes about midnight: the draught they pluck vp, being apparrel, sheets, couerlets, or whatsoeuer their yron hookes can lay hold of: which prize when they haue gotten, they do not presently make sale of it, but after foure or fiue dayes, or according as they suspect inquirie will bee made after it, doe they bring such goods to a Broaker (traded vp for the purpose) who lends vpon them

halfe so much money as they be worth, which notwithstanding serues the Angler a while for spending money, and enritches him that buyes it for a long time after.

A Rogue.

A Rogue is knowne to all men by his name, but not to all men by his conditions: no Puritane can dissemble more then hee, for hee will speake in a lamentable tune, and crallwle along the Streets, (supporting his body by a staffe) as if there were not life enough in him to put strength into his legs: his head shall bee bound about with linnen, loathsome to behold, and as filthy in colour as the complexion of his face: his apparell is all tattered, his bosome naked, and most commonly no shirt on: not that they are driuen to this misery by mere want, but that if they had better cloathes giuen them, they would rather sell them to some of their owne fraternity then weare them, and wander vp and downe in that pitteous maner, onely to moue people to compassion, and to be relieued with money, which beeing gotten, at night is spent as merily and as lewdely, as in the day it was wonne by counterfeit villany.

Another Sect there bee of these, and they are called Sturdy Rogues: These walke from Countrey to Countrey vnder colour of trauelling to their friendes, or to finde out some kinsman, or else to deliuer some letter to one Gentleman or other, whose name he will haue fairely endorsed on paper, foulded vp for that purpose, and handsomely sealed: others vse this shift, to carry a Certificate or Passport about them, with the hand and seale of some Iustice to it, giuing notice how he hath been whipped for a Vagabond, according to the lawes of the Realme, and that he is now to returne to such a place where he was borne, or dwelt last, by a certain day limited, which is sure to be set downe long enough, for all these writings are but counterfeit, they hauing amongst them (of their owne Rancke) that can write and reade, who are their Secretaries in this businesse. These fellowes haue fingers as nimble as the Vp-right-man, and haue their Wenches and meeting places, where whatsoeuer they get, they spend, and whatsoeuer they spend is to satisfie their lust: some of this brood are called Curtalls, because they

weare short Cloakes: their company is dangerous, their liues detestable, and their ends miserable.

A wilde Rogue.

THe Tame Rogue begets a Wilde Rogue, and this is a spirit that cares not in what circle hée rises, nor into the company of what Diuels hée fals: In his swadling clouts is hée marked to bée a villaine, and in his breeding is instructed to bée so: The mother of him (who was deliuered of her burden vnder a hedge,) eyther trauelling with him at her backe, or else leading him in her hand, and will rather indure to sée his brains beaten out, than to haue him taken from her, to bee put to an honest course of life: So enuious are they, and so much doe they scorne any profession but their own: they haue bén Rogues themselues, and disdaine that their Children should bee otherwise. These Wilde-Rogues (like Wild Geese) kéepe in flockes, and all the day lyeter in the fieldes (if the Weather bée warme,) and at Brick-kilnes, or else disperse themselues in colde Weather, to Rich-mens doores, and at night haue their métings in barnes, or other out-places, where (twenty or more in a Company) they engender Male and Female, euery one catching her whome hée doth best fancie, the stronger and more sturdy kéeping the weaker in subiection: their language is bawdy talke, damned oaths, and plots where to filch the next morning, which they performe betimes, rising as early as the Sunne, and enioyning their Doncks to loke out for cheates, to make their méeting at night the merrier.

A Prigger of Prancers.

A Prigger of Prancers is a horse-stealer, for to Prig signifies in the Canting language to steale, and Prancer signifies a Horse. These walke (in frieze or leather Ierkins) with a wand in their hands, watching in what pasture any horses are fitte for their turne, and those within three or foure nights after are conuayed away at the least 60. miles from the place: if they méete the owners in their ground, they haue shifts to auoyde his suspition, by sayning they haue lost they[r] way to such a Towne.

These Hackney men that let out Horses, will require ſeruice at Gentlemens houſes, their skill being to keepe a Gelding well, and if they get entertainement, they ſtand to their Word, for they keepe the Gelding ſo well, that his Maiſter ſhall neuer finde fault with any diſeaſe hee hath, vnleſſe it bee that hee had the dizzineſſe in his head, which made him reele out of his ſtable to bee ſold fortie miles off at a fayre. Theſe haue their ſemall Spies that ſurucy Hedgwes and Cloſes, and long onely for horſe fleſh.

A Palliard.

A Palliard comes next into my mind, and he like vnto is: ied a Clapperdudgeon: his vpper garment is an olde cloake made of as many peces patched together, as there bee villanies in him: This Palliard neuer goes without a Mort at his heeles whom he cals his wife. Being either in the ſtreete of a City, or in a Country Village, they diuide themſelues, and beg alms at ſeuerall doores. but whatſoeuer is gotten (bee it bread, cheeſe, malt or wooll) they ſell it to ſome Rogue or other, and with the money are merry at a Bowſing Ken. A Palliard carries about him (for feare of the worſt) a Certificate (vnder a Miniſters hand, with the Pariſhes name, which ſhall bee ſure to ſtand farre enough) where this Mort and hee were married, when all is but forged. Many Arithmen are of this lowſie Regiment, and ſome Welchmen: And the better there to draw pitty from men, as alſo to giue colour to their lame wandring, with Sperewort or Arſenicke will they in one night poyſon their Legge, bee it neuer ſo ſound, and raiſe a blikker, which at their pleaſure they can take off againe.

A Frater.

A Frater is a brother of as damne a broode as there is: his office is to trauell with a long wallet at his backe, and a blacke boxe at his girdle, wherein is a Patient to beg for ſome Hoſpitall or Spittle houſe: many of which Patents (eſpecially if they bee in paper or Parchment without the Great Seale) are counterfeit, And thoſe that are not ſo, ſerue the bearers of them but

but as instruments to play the knaues by: for though they get never so much, the poore creatures for whom they begge, receiue little of it: they lye soaking with a Doxie in a Tippling house, whilest the Spittle wretches are ready to sterue for sustenance at home: let country women returning from markets, if they bee alone, and in a dangerous place, take heed of these Prouors, for they haue the art to vnhorse them, and a conscience to send them packing without any penny in their purses.

A Quire bird.

YOur Quire-birds are such as haue sung in such Cages as Newgate, or a Country Gaole: and hauing their bailes giuen them to flie, they sticke presently to build their nests vnder some honest mans roofe, not with intent to bring him in any profite, but onely to put themselues into money or apparell (though it be by filching) and then they take their flight.

An Abraham man.

OF all the mad rascals (that are of this wing) the Abraham-man is the most fantasticke: The fellow (quoth this olde Lady of the Lake vnto me) that sate halfe naked (at Table to day) from the Girdle vpward, is the best Abraham-man that euer came to my house, and the notablest villaine: he sweares he hath been in Bedlam, and will talke frantickly of purpose: you shall pinnes sticke in sundry places of his naked flesh, especially in his armes, which paine he gladly puts himselfe to (being indeed no torment at all) his skinne is either so dead with some foule disease, or so benomm'd with weather: onely to make you beleeue he is out of his wits) he cals himselfe by the name of Poore Tom, and comming neere any body cries out, Poore Tom is a cold. Of these Abraham men, some be exceeding merry, and doe nothing but sing songs, fashioned out of their owne braines: some will dance, others will doe nothing but eyther laugh or weepe, others are dogged, and so sullen both in looke and speech, that spying but a small company in a house, they boldly and bluntly enter, compelling the seruants through feare to giue them what they demaund, which

is commonly Bacon, or some thing that will yéeld ready money. The Vpright-man, and the Rogue are not terribler enemies to Poultry ware, then poore Tom is: neyther does any man shift cleane linnen oftner then he does his Wenches.

A Whipiacke.

Then there is another sort of nimble fingred knaues, and they are called Whipiacks: who talke of nothing but fights at Sea, Piracies, drownings, and shipwracks, trauelling both in the shapes and names of Mariners, with a counterfeit Licence to begge from towne to towne, which licence they call a Gybe, and the Seales to it Iarkes. Their colour of wandring from Shire to Shire (especially, along the Sea coasts) is to hearken after their Shippe that was ouerthrowne, or for the Marchandize stollen out of her: but the end of their Land voyages is to rob Booths at fayres, which they call heauing of the Booth. These Whipiacks will talke of the Indies, and of all Countries that lye vnder heauen, but are indéede no more but freshwater Souldiers.

A Counterfeit Cranke.

BAser in habit, and more vile in condition then the Whipiacke, is the Counterfeit Cranke, who in all kinde of Weather, going halfe naked, staring wildly with his eyes, and appearing distracted by his lookes, complayning onely that hee is troubled with the falling sickneſſe: Albeit you giue them cloathes they will weare none, but rather with those ragges which they haue hanging about them should bée made loathsome by myre, or their naked Bosome and Armes to appeare full of bruſes, and to bée bloudy with falling, thereby to kindle in men the greater compaſſion: to cauſe that foaming in their mouths (which is fearefull to behold by the standers by) they haue this tricke, priuily to conuay a péece of white soape into one corner of their Iawes, which causeth the froth to come boyling forth. These Crancks haue like wise their meetings, and their Wenches at commaund.

A Dum-

A Dummerar.

EQuall to the Cranke in dissembling, is the Dummerar, for as the other takes vpon him to haue the falling sickness, so this, counterfeits Dumbnesse: but let him bee whipped well, and his tongue (which he doubles in his mouth, and so makes a horred and strange noyse, in stead of speech) will walke as fast as his hands doe, when he comes where any booty is.

A Iacke-man and a Patrico.

AND because no common wealth can stand without some learning in it. Therefore are there some in this Schoole of Beggers, that practise writing and reading, and those are called Iackmen: yea, the Iackman is so cunning sometimes, that hee can speake Latine: which learning of his lifts him vp to aduancement, for by that meanes he becomes Clarke of their Hall, and his office is to make counterfeit licences, which are called Gybes, to which he puts seales, and those are tearmed Iarkes. This Iack-man (for his knowledge) is hayle fellow well met with a Patrico, who amongst Beggers is their Priest, euery hedge being his Parish, euery wandring Harlot and Rogue his Parishioners, the seruice he sayes, is onely the marrying of couples, which hee does in a wood vnder a tree, or in the open field, and the solemnity of it is this: The parties to bee wedded, find out a dead horse, or any other beast, and standing one on the one side, and the other on the other, the Patrico bids them to liue together till death them part, and so shaking hands, the wedding dinner is kept at the next Ale-house they stumble into, where the musicke is nothing but knocking with Cannes, and their dances none but drunken Brawles.

The Ceremony of marrying roagues vnder a hedge

An Irish Toyle.

IN this Forrest of Wild-men, the safest Toyles to pitch is the Irish Toyle, which is a net so strongly and cunningly wouen together, that they who goe a hunting with it, catch the

Com-

Common wealth, and Connycatch the Subiects: for an Irish Toyle is a sturdy vagabond, who scorning to take paines that may make him sweat, stalkes onely vp and downe the Country with a Wallet at his backe, in which hée carries laces, pins, points, and such like; and vnder colour of selling such Wares, both passeth to and froquietly, and so commits many villanies as it were by warrant.

A Swig-man.

LIke vnto him in conditions is a Swigman or Pedler, carrying a packe behind him in stead of a Wallet: their Trades are all one, sauing that the Swigman is somewhat better in behauiour, though little differing in honesty. They both stand in feare of the Vp-right man, and are forced oftentimes to pay him toale out of their packes.

A kinch in Coe.

THe last ranke of these Runnagates is fild vp with Kinchen Coes: and they are little boyes, whose parents (hauing beene Beggers) are dead, or else such as haue runne away from their Masters, and in stead of a Trade to liue by, follow this kind of life to be lowsie by. These Kinchens, the first thing they doe, is to learne how to Cant, and the onely thing they practise is to créepe in at Windowes or Celler dores.

Thus haue I opened vnto you halfe the nest of this generation of Vipers: now will I discouer the other halfe, wherein sits a broode of Serprnts, as dangerous and as loathsome as these: of which the young ones, and the least, are called Kinchin-Morts, and those are Girles of a yeare or two olde, which the Morts (their Mothers) carry at their backes in their slates, (which in the Canting tongue are shéetes) if they haue no children of their owne they will steale them from others, and by some meanes disfigure them, that by their parents they shall neuer be known. The second Bird of this feather is a Dell, and that is a young wench, ripe for the Act of Generation, but as yet not spoyled of her mayden-head: these Dels are reserued as Dishes for the Vpeight men, for none but they must haue the first tast

A Kinchin Mort.

A Dell.

of

of them, and after the Vprightmen haue deflowred them, (which commonly is when they are very young) then are they free for any of the Brotherhood, & are called Dels no more, but Doxies. Of these Dels some are tearmed Wilde-dels, and those are such as are borne and begotten vnder a hedge: the other are young wenches that either by death of Parents, the villany of Executors, or the cruelty of Maisters or Mistresses fall into this infamous and dammable course of life. When they haue gotten the title of Doxies, then are they common for any, and walke for the most part with their betters, (who are a degree aboue them) called Morts, but whensoeuer an Vp-right-man is in presence, the Doxie is onely at his command. These Doxies will for good victuals or a small peece of money, prostitute their bodies to seruingmen if they can get into any conuenient corner about their Maisters houses, and to Ploughmen in Barnes, Haylofts or stables: they are common pick-pokets, familiars with the baser sorts of cut-purses, and oftentimes secret murtherers of those Infants which are begotten of their bodies. These Doxies haue one speciall badge to be knowne by, for most of them goe working of laces and shirt strings, or such like stuffe, onely to giue colour to their idle wandring. A Doxie.

Of Morts there be two kinds, that is to say, a walking mort and an Autem mort: the Walking mort is of more antiquitie than a Doxie, and therefore of more knauerie: they both are vnmarried, but the Doxie professes her selfe to be a maide, (if it come to examination) and the Walking mort sayes, she is a widdow, whose husband died either in the Portugall voyage, was slaine in Ireland, or the Low Countries, or came to his end by some other misfortune, leauing her so many small Infants on her hand in debt, whom not being able by her honest labour to maintaine, she is compelled to begge. These Walking morts trauell from Country, to Country, making laces vpon staues, & small purses, and now and then white ballance for beds: Subtill queanes they are, hard hearted, light fingred, cunning in dissembling, and dangerous to be met, if any Ruffler or Rogue be in their company. They feare neyther God nor good lawes, but onely are kept in awe by the Vpright-men, who oftentimes spoyle them of all they haue, which to preuent, the Walking Morts vse this policy, they leane their money (sometimes fiue A Walking Mort.

shillings, sometimes ten shillings) in seuerall shiers, with some honest Farmers wife or other, whom they know they may trust, and when they trauell that way againe, at halfe yeres end, or a quarters, fetch it to serue their turnes, but dare neuer goe in good cloathes, least the Vp-right-men either strip them into rags, or else starke naked, as they vse to doe.

An Autem Mort.

An Autem Mort, is a woman maried, for Autem in th Beggars language is a Church: these Morts seldome keep with their husbands, but are from them sometimes a Moneth or Two, yet neuer walke they without a man in their company, and boyes, and girles at their heels of Ten or Twelue yeres old, whom they imploy at windowes of houses in the night time, or early in the mornings, to pilfer any thing that is worth the carrying away (which in their tongue) they call Nilling of the Ken. These Autem Morts walke with wallets on their shoulders, and Slates or shetes at their backes, in which they vse to lie. Their husbands commonly are Rufflers, Vp-right-men, or Wilde Rogues, and their companions of the same breed.

A Baudy basket.

There is another Parrot (in this Bird-cage) whose feathers are more sleeke, and tongue more smooth then the rest, and she is called a Baudy Basket, these Baudy Baskets are women that walke with baskets or Cap-cases on their armes, wherein they haue laces, pinnes, needles, white Incke, tape, round white silke Girdles, and such like: these will buy Cony Skins, and in the meane time steale Linnen or Pewter: they are faire spoken, and will seldome sweare whilst they are selling their wares, but lye with any man that hath a mind to their commoditie s. The Vp-right-men and these hold such loegue together, that whatsoeuer they haue is common to them both, and oftentimes will they with money releeue one another.

Demaunders of Glimmer.

The selfe saue Truce is taken betweene the Vp-right-men and the demaunders of Glimmer, that is to say, those who trauell vp and downe with licences to beg, because their houses haue been consumed with fire, for Glimmer, (in Canting) signifies fire.

These Glimmering Morts are so tender hearted, that they shed teares if they make but mention of their losses, and tell a lamentable storie how the fire destroyed their barnes, stables &c all that they speake being meere lyes: they likewise carry wallets at their backes, and are onely attended vpon and defen-

Ded

ded by the Vpright-men, who neuer walke along with them through any towne, but keepe aloofe.

And these (quoth the Hostesse of the Beggars) are all or the chiefest (both He-Diuels and Shee-Diuels) that dance in this large circle. I haue brought you acquainted with their names, their natures, their tradings, and their trafficke: if you haue a desire to know more of them, you shall find whole congregations of them at Saint Quintins, the Three Cranes in the Vintry, Saint Tibs, and at Knapsbury, which foure places are foure seuerall barnes within one miles compasse neere London, being but Nick-names giuen to them by the Vpright-men. In those Innes they doe lodge euery night: In those doe Vpright-men lie with Morts, and turne Delles in Doxies (that is to say, rauish young wenches) whilest the Rogue is glad to stand at reuersion, and to take the other leauings. In Middlesex likewise stand foure other Harbours for them, namely, Draw the pudding out of the fire (which is in the parish of Harrow on the Hil) The Crosse Keyes (which is in Cranford parish, (Saint Iulians (which is in Thistleworth parish) And the house of Pitty in Northall Parish. The Kings Barne neere Darford, and Ketbrooke neare Black-heath, are likewise houses of good receite for them: In all Shires haue they such Innes as these, and in all of them, and these recited, shall you find sometimes forty Vpright-men together, ingendring beggers with their Morts. No sinne but is here committed without shame, Adultery is common amongst them, Incest but laughed at, Sodomy made a iest: At these Hauens doe they cast Anchor boldly, because none are by to barre their entrance: yea, those that are owners of these Barnes and Backhouses, dare not but giue welcome to these Vnruly Guests: for if they should not, they would at one time or other set fire of their houses, or by bloudy and trecherous practises take away their liues. For this cause sir (quoth she) am I glad to loke smilingly vpon them, & to play the Hostesse, because my abiding stands so far from company, yet I protest (quoth she) I hate the sight of the, as knowing them to be hel-hounds, & haue made discouery of their deuilish cõditions, because you may teach others how to auoyde them: and howsoeuer you may be drawne peraduenture to publish these abuses to the world (said she) yet I pray you conceale my name, the publishing of which may cost me my life.

By this time the fumes of the Ale which had distempered her braynes, and set her tongue a going were dispersed, so that both her looks and speech shewing that shee did not now dissemble, but uttered these things unfainedly, I gaue her many thanks for her Discouery, counselled her to change her discomfortable Lodging, and to dwell in a place more inhabited (which shee promised to doe) and away I went. A thousand cogitations kept mee company as I trauelled alone by my selfe: sorry I was to heare, that in those places where Innocency and Simplicity should bee born, so much, and such vgly Villany should be nourished, yet was I glad that I came to the knowledge of their euils, because the dressing of such wounds in a common wealth, is the curing of them.

Looking therefore with more pearcing eyes into the Country life, I beganne to hate it worse then (before) I loued it, I fell to dispraise it faster then euer I did commend it: for I found it full of care, and full of craft, full of labour, and yet full of penury: I saw the poore Husbandman made a slaue to the rich Farmer, the Farmer racked by his Landlord: I saw that couetousnes made deare yeares when shee had the fullest Barns: and to curse plenty for being liberall of her blessings. I had heard of no sinne in the City, but I met it in the Village, nor any Vice in the Tradesman which was not in the Plough-man. All places therefore being haunted with euill Spirits, I forsoke the fields and the Mountaines, and tooke my iourney backe againe to the City, whose customes (both good and bad) I desired to bee acquainted with. It was my fortune to trauell so late, that the Moone had climed vp to the very toppe of Midnight, before I had entrance into the Gates of the City, which made mee make the more haste to my Lodging: but in my passage I first heard (in some good distance before me) the sound of a Bell, and then of a mans voyce, both which tunes seemed at that dead houre of the night verie dolefull. On I hastned to know what noyse it should bee, and in the end found it to be the Belman of London. The sound of his voyce at the first put me in mind of the day of Iudgement: When (me thought) starting out of their sleepes at the ringing of his bell, as when they are to rise from their graues at the call of a trumpet: but when I approached neere vnto him and beheld a man with a lanthorne and candle in his hand, a long staffe on

his

his necke, and a dogge at his tayle, I supposed verily, because the Moone shone somewhat dimly, that the man in the Moone had leapt downe from heauen, (for hast) had left his bush of thorns behind him. But these imaginations vanishing, as fast as they were begotten, I beganne to talke to my Bell-man, and to aske him why with such a Jangling and balling, and beating at mens doores, hee went about to waken eyther poore men that were ouerwearied with labour, or sicke men that had most need of rest? Hee made answere vnto me, that the Ringing of his Bell, was not (like an Alarum in a Towne of Garrison) to fright the Inhabitants, but rather it was Musicke to charme them faster with sleepe: the Beating at their doores assured those within, that no theeues were entered, nor that false seruants had wilfully or negligently suffered the doores to stand open, to haue their Masters robd, and that his crying out so loud was but like the shrill Good morrow of a Cocke, to put men (that had wealth inough) in mind of the time, how it slideth away, and to bid those that are full of businesse to bee watchfull for their due houres when they were to rise. Hee calde himselfe therefore the Centinell of the City, the Watchman for euery Ward; the honest Spie that discouered the Prentizes of the night, and that as a lanthorne in the poope of a Shippe, was a guide or comfort to Sea-men in most pitchy darkenesse, so was his walking vp and downe in the night time, a preuention to the City oftentimes of much and many dangerous fires. I liked well that thus he praysed himselfe, because in those prayses lay the commendation of an honourable, ciuill, and politike gouernment. And so farre dealt I with him, that in the end hee brought mee acquainted with his office, aswell as he knew it himselfe, and discouered vnto me the properties of his Walks, as how farre his bounds reached, what mad Hobgoblings hee oftentimes encountred with, what mischiefes he now and then preuented, what knaueries he was now and then an eye Witnesse to, and to what secret villanies (brought to bed in darkenesse) hee was compelled to bee (though not the Midwife) yet a gossip, present at the labour and deliuery. Of all which, I hauing a longing desire to get the true pictures, and perswading him that he was bound by his place, by his conscience, and by the lawes of common humanity to lay open such plots as were

so dangerous to the common wealth, whereof hee was a member, hee yelded at the length to discouer all that hee knew, and for that purpose not onely carryed me home to his lodging, where hee gaue mee the notes and names of sundry abuses begotten in the dead of night, but also went vp and downe the City with me all the next day, shewing me the very doores and Signes at which they dwelt, and the very faces of those that are the Deuils Factors in those Lowe Country commodities of Hell: I learnt much by the Bell-mans intelligence, but more afterwards by my owne obseruation and experience: what Marchandize I stored my selfe with by both Voyages, here doe I vnlade, and what profit soeuer arises by the trafficke of them, shall if you please bee wholly yours. And for that the Lading was of sundry commodities, I will deliuer them forth in their seuerall parcels, as I receyued them.

Of Cheating Law.

ALL Vices maske themselues with the vizards of Vertue: they borrow their names, the better and more currantlie to passe without suspition: for murder will be called Manhood, Drunkennesse is now held to be Physicke, Impudence is Audacity, Riot good fellowshippe, &c. So are these Villainies (whose faces I meane to discouer) painted ouer with fresh orient Colours, because their lokes may bee more pleasing, and lesse suspected to haue craft vnderneath them. And for that purpose haue their Knaueries gotten the names of Arts or Lawes, as the Act of such a thing or such a Law, not that they are institutions set down by law for the good of men, or of a common wealth: but as the Law is grounded vpon reason, and hath Maximes of Iustices, vpon which shee buildeth all her Policies whereby shee gouerns Kingdomes: So these new found lawes of the Deuils inuention, are grounded vpon mischiefe, and are nothing else but certaine Arts and Rules drawn into heads (in an assembly of damned Wretches) for the vtter vndoing of Men, and confusion of Weale publike.

Of all which Lawes, the Highest in place, and the Highest in perdition is the Cheating Law, or the art of winning money by false dyce. Those that practise this study call themselues Cheaters

ters, the Dice Cheaters, and the money which they purchase Cheates: borrowing the tearme from our common Lawyers, with whom all such casuals as fall to the Lord at the holding of his Leetes, as Waifes, Straies, and such like, are said to be Escheated to the Lords vse, and are called Cheates. This sort of Gamesters, were at first a few in number, (the Art being odious) they were poore (as being hated and driuen from all good mens company.) But now there are so many professt Cheaters, and so many that giue countenance to their Occupation, that they might make an Army sufficient to giue the Turke a battell, now are they not hungry thread-bare knaues, but Gallants that ruffle in silk, and are whorried through the streetes in Coaches, their purses being full of Crownes, and their fingers being held vp, able to commaund the proudest Curtizan. Yea, to such a rankenesse hath custome brought this vice, and to such a boldnes, that in the most noble assemblies, at the best Ordinaries, where your onely Gallants spend afternoones, and in your most ciuill meetings of Marchants, your wealthiest Citizens, if they fall to play with dice for any round summes of money, it is now growen to a fashion to haue some one or other to take vp the Cheaters weapons, and (without all respect of honesty, friendship or society) to beat all commers.

A Cheater playes his Maisters prize at 14. seuerall weapons, and those weapons are these.

The names of false Dice.

A Bale of bard sincke Dewces.
A Bale of Flat sincke Dewces.
A Bale of Flat sice Aces.
A bale of bard sice Aces.
A Bale of Bard cater-treas.
A Bale of Flat-Cater-Treas.
A Bale of Fullams.
A Bale of light Graniers.
A Bale of Langrets, contrary to the Vantage.
A Bale of Gordes, with as many High-men as Low-men for Passage.
A Bale of Demies.
A Bale of Long-Dice for euen and odde.

A Bale of briſtles.
A Bale of direct contraries.

Theſe are the 14. diuelish hookes, by which the Cheater angles for other mens money, hee cares not in what Riuer, hee makes no conſcience with what Bayte, ſo he may haue good draughts to maintaine himſelfe in riots, and his Whore in rich apparrell, thats the white hee ſhootes at. Neyther doth hee let al theſe arrowes flie at one marke, nor in all weathers. But ſome he ſhootes in one game, ſome in another, and as hee finds what fooles are in his company, ſo doth he beſtow his bolts. To ſet downe all the Legier-demaine of this handicraft, would peradventure inſtruct ſome ill minded perſons in that villany, which is publiſhed onely to haue others ſhun it: I will therefore ſhew you a few of their iugling tricks, that are Graduates in the Art, and by the ſhape of them iudge the reſt, for all are alike.

A Langret is a Die which ſimple men haue ſeldome heard of, and happily neuer ſéene (but to their coſt) It is (to the eye of him that is but a Nouice) a good and ſquare Die, yet it is cutte longer vpon the Cater and Trea, then vpon any other point, and is for that cauſe called a Langret: theſe Langrets are alſo called Bard Cater Treas, becauſe in the running, the longer end wil commonly (of his owne ſway) draw downewards, and turne eyther Sice, Sinke, Dewce, or Ace vpwards on the board, the principall vſe of them is at Novum: for ſo long as a payre of bard Cater Treas be walking, ſo long can you caſt neyther 5. nor 9. vnleſſe it be by great chance, that the roughneſſe of the Table, or ſome other ſtoppe force them to ſtay, and to runne againſt their kind: for without Cater Trea, 5. or 9. you know can neuer come. Here ſome may imagine, that by this means hee that hath the firſt Dyce in his hand, may ſtrip all that play at the Table of their money, but this muſt be their helpe. An odde Die called Flat Cater Trea (and no other number) is to be ready at hand: for granting the Trea & Cater to be alwayes vpon the one Die, then is there no chance vpon the other Die, but may ſerue to make 5. or 9, and ſo caſt forth & loſe all.

The Cheater therefore marketh well the Flat, and bendeth a great part of his ſtudy to learne when hée is abroad, for ſo long as that is ſtirring, hée will neuer caſt at much, the ſhift which

a Cheater is driuen to, in conueying the Flat in and out, is a notable Cunning, and in their tradis cald Foysting; which is nothing else but a sleight to carry Dice easily in the hand so often as the Foyster listeth: so that when either he or his partner calleth the Dice, the Flat comes not abrod till he hath made a Great hand, otherwise the Flat is still sure to be One, vnlesse the Cheater of purpose suffers the silly Nouices, with whom he playes, to cast in a hand or two to giue them courage and to line in hope of winning.

The damnable Oathes and Quarrells that waite at the table of Gamesters, are occasion that many men forbeare to venture money in those sports, who otherwise would play, the Cheater therefore (being a cunning obseruer in all fashions) will seldome sweare (if he haue gotten a Gul into his company whom he is loath to anger for feare to lose him) and as seldome swagger, but will rather put vp an open wrong, then by a foolish braule to breake off the company and so to hinder himselfe & his comfortful purchase: But if he sweare, you would take him for a puritane, for his oathes are Of stonesty, Of truth, by Saint Martin, &c.

And take this note, that when he sweares affirmatiuely, he means alwaies the contrary. As for example, if I say vnto you when the Dice come to your hands, Of honestly cast at all, my meaning is, you shall cast at the Table, or rise at verie little: or if when one being stript out of all his money, offer to pawne a Ring or a Iewell, and sweare by Saint Martin I thinke it is fine gold, then do I meane that it is pure copper, and so of the rest: He that is drawne in to venture his money, is (amongst this cursed brotherhood of Cheaters) tearmed a Cosen, and is handled so kindly, as if he were a Cosen indeed: If he once set in a fit, and that they fall to Hunt him, then all the craft is to make the Cony sweate, that is to say, so wisely to handle him, that he may haue a desire more and more to play and to keepe company, yet so warily to encrease this appetite in him that he Smoake not the Cheater, which is, that he smell not what knauerie is bent against him and so slip the coller like a Hound, and shake off the company for euer.

At the taking vp of a Cosen, the first Veny that a Cheater giues him, is to learne before he play what store of Bit he hath in his Bay, that is, what money he hath in his purse, and whe-

ther it be in great Cogges or small: that is in gold or siluer, and at what game hee will soonest stope; for that being knowne, his humor is fed, and he is choked with the meat hee loues best. For some that will not play a groat at Nouum, will lose a Hundred Pound at Hazard, and hee that will not lose a shilling at Dice, will play away his Patrimony at Cardes: for which cause the Cheater furnisheth himselfe for all voyages, but especially prouides for fine Cheates, and to atchieue which with more ease, hee acquaints himselfe with Dice-makers, that worke in corners (Marlets they are that are Factors to the Deuill, and for money will exchange their soules in a bale of Dice) These Dice-makers, arme the Cheater with the foresaid 14 weapons, and then hee is a Cheater compleat.

One notable policy is (as a Rule) set downe in this Schoole of Cheating, that is, A Cheater neuer discouereth his secrets of his Art to any, vnlesse it bee to such a one who being left by his Parents, rich in money and possessions, hath to the musicke of square rattling bones danced so long, that hee hath danced himselfe into the company of beggars, and is brought to such want and misery, that hee would leaue no stone vnturned to find a pennie vnder it. Such a wretch is instructed in those Villanies, by which hee himselfe hath been wrought to infamy: the poyson that once hee swallowed doth hee now cast vp to kill others with it. Neither doth the Cheater bestow this learning vppon his young Scholler, out of a commiseration of his low estate, but onely to make vse of him, euen in the height of his extremitie. His Iourny man therfore doth hee make him, and because the Cheater is happily a man so noted in all companies, that few or none will venture money where he playes, the Nouice is taught to play his schollers prize, whilst the other stands by and lookes on, yet so, that the Cheater hath the sweetnes of the games. The Nouices imployments then, are amongst his rich Kindred Countrymen, or acquaintance to find out Coosens; whom hee must by one tricke or other get to a Tauerne, or inuite them to a supper, at the end of which, the Cheater layes about him to draw them to play, and secretly lends his Pupill money to maintaine game, both their wits working how to cheate those that are in the company. We haue been too long at Dice, let vs now fall to Cardes.

Of

Of Barnards Law.

DIce and Cards are twins, idlenesse was the Father of them, Desire of Gaines the mother, Honest Recreation sayes shee was their Nurse, and ought to haue the bringing of them vp: but howsoeuer, the Deuill makes them now his adopted Children: and no wonder, for they are like in conditions, as being both (like him) full of deceit: if there be cousnage in tripping of a Die, there is the like craft in thuffling and cutting of a payre of Cards: insomuch that what game soeuer is on foote, he that is marked out to bee the loser (by the Synodicall assembly and Fathers of the Barnards law) is sure neuer to depart a winner.

To speake of all the sleights vsed by Card-players in all sorts of Games, would but weary you that are to read, and bee but a thanklesse and vnpleasing labour for me to set them downe. Omitting therefore the deceipts practised (euen in the fayrest and most ciuill Companies) at Primero, Saunt, Maw, Trump, and such like games, I will onely lay open the villanies of a base kind of people, that trauell vp and downe the whole land, sometimes in the habite of Gentlemen, sometimes of Seruingmen, sometimes of Grasiers, Farmers, and plaine Fellowes, maintayning themselues onely by the cosenage they vse in Cards-playing: which kind of play of theirs, they call, The Barnards Law.

To act which knauish Comedy of Wily-begily, 5. Persons are requited, and those are.

1 The Taker.
2 The Cozen.
3. The Verser.
4. The Barnard.
5. The Rutter.

These are the players, now shall you heare their parts.

1 The Taker, is he that by some fine invention fetcheth in the man whom they desire to draw into Gaming.

2 The Cozen is the party that is taken.

3 The Verser, is a fellow more graue in speech & habite, and seemes

ſeemes to bee a landed man, his part is to ſecond what the Taker begins, and to giue countenance to the act.

4 The Barnard is the chiefe player, for hee counterfeits many parts in one, and is now a drunken man, anon, in another humour, and ſhifts himſelfe into ſo many ſhapes, onely to blind the Cozen, and to feed him with more delight, the more eaſily to beguile him.

5 The Rutter is as arrant a knaue as the reſt, his part is diſcharged when he hath begune a fray with his owne ſhadow, whileſt the reſt that haue made a younger brother of the poore Cozen, ſteale out of ſight. Now to the Country it ſelfe: The Prologue of which if it goe off well, there is good hope all ſhall end well: All the cunning thereof is how to beginne, and to do that: the Taker ſtudies his part at his Fingers ends. The Stage on which he playes his Prologue is either in Fleet-ſtreet, the Strand, or in Paules, and moſt commonly in the afternoone, when Country Clyents are at moſt leaſure to walke in thoſe places or for diſpatching of their buſineſſe, trauell from Lawyer to Lawyer, through Chancerie Lane, Holborne, and ſuch like places.

In this heate of running to and fro, if a plaine Fellow well and cleanely apparrelled, eyther in home-ſpunne Ruſſet or Freez (as the ſeaſon requires) with a ſide pouch at his Girdle, happen to appeare in his ruſticall likeneſſe. There is a Cozen ſayes one. At which Word out ſlyes the Taker, and thus giues the on-ſet vpon my old Penny-Father. Sir, God ſaue you, you are welcome to London, how doe all our good friends in the Country? I hope they bee well: the Ruſſeting amazed at theſe ſalutations of a Stranger, replyes: Sir, all our friendes in the Country are in health, but pray pardon mee, I know you not, beleeue it: No (anſweres the Taker) are you not a Lancaſhire man, or of ſuch a country? if he ſayes yea, then the fiſh nibbles, and hee giues him more line to play with: if hee ſay no, then the Taker hath about with another weapon, and ſweares ſoberly: In good ſooth, Sir, I know your face, and am ſure we haue bin merry together, I pray (if I may beg it without offence) beſtow your name vpon me, and your dwelling place. The innocent man ſuſpecting no poyſon in this gilded cup, tels him preſently his name and abiding, by what Gentleman hee dwels, &c which

being

being done, the Taker for thus interrupting him in his way, and for the wrong in mistaking him for another, offers a quart of wine: if the Cozen bee such an Asse, to goe into a Tauerne, then he is sure to bee Mucbled, but if hee smoake my Taker, and smell Gunpowder traines, yet will not be blowne vp, they part fairely, and then to the Verser goes the Taker, discouering what hee hath done, and deliuers the mans name, Country, and dwelling to the Verser, who boldly stepping to him, or crossing the way to meete him full in the face, takes acquaintance presently of him, saluters him by his name, inquires how such and such Gentlemen doe, that dwelt in the same Towne by him, and albeit the Honest Hob nayle-wearer can by no meanes bee brought to remember this new friend, yet will hee, nill hee, to the Tauerne he sweares to haue him, and to bestow vpon him the best wine in London.

Diuers other pollies (if these two faile) haue they to draw simple men into their company, as by dropping a shilling in the open way, which being taken vp in the Country mans sight, must bee spent in Wine, because he will haue his halfe part, or by intreating him to steppe into a Tauerne till the Verser haue writ a word or two into the Country, which he must carry to his friends, offering the Cozen a shilling for his paines. But the conclusion of all is, that if they thinke his bag is well lined with siluer, to the Tauerne by one subtill hooke or other, they will pull him, where being set with the Verser and the Taker, and wine called for: In comes the Barnard stumbling into the Roome, as if it were by chance, seeming to bee halfe drunken, and crying the company mercy for being so bolde with them, they modestly answere, no hurt is done: and aske him, if he will drinke with them? He takes their offer, and sweares to pay for a pinte of Wine, which they by no meanes will suffer.

But the Barnard tels them he has money for what he cals, and vsing phrases fitte for a drunken man, out flies some 20. or 40. Angels on the board, which he puts vp presently againe & sayes, seeing they will not suffer him to pay for a pinte, hee will play at cardes for it with any one of them at a new game which hee learnt but now, with the lolle onely of a pot of Ale. The rest of his consort (making as though what they doe, is to bee

rid of him are content to play for a pinte and no more. The Taker or the Verser is the man must play with him, the Cardes are fetcht, Mumchaunce or Decoy is the game: the first Wager is Wine, the second two pence in money, from two pence they rise to a shilling, from that to a pound, and having drawne some good store of gold from the Barnard, the Cozen (allured with the sweetnesse of gaine, and hope of winning, seeing the other halfe drunke, as he imagines) is offered to be halfe in whatsoeuer is won: hee stopes to this lure, but the bush is so well beaten by these subtill fowlers, that in the end, all the birds are flowne out of the Cozens hand, and hee hath not one penny left him in his purse: if then hee smell the knauery, and fall to call for a Constable, sweating the drunken rascall hath cousened him (for the Barnard you must know carryes away all the money) then enters the Rutter, who picking some sole quarrell, eyther in the towne, or at the first doore. the Couey of the cheaters take their flight in the meane time, and that (with the sharing of the purchase in another Tauerne) is the Epilogue to their Comedie, but the first entrance to the poore Countrymans Tragedie.

These Comedians flront likewise vp and downe the Country in the habites of Seruingmen, and silly fellowes, haunting Brainford, Kingston, Croyden, Rumford, and such other places nearest London vpon the Market dayes only, and at the end of the market, when Butchers, Graslers and others whom they thinke to bee stored with money, are on their way home, then will one of this Crew ouertake them in riding, and light at some towne of purpose to mend his girt, to remoue a shoe of his horse, or vpon any other errand, intreating the Company (with whom hee is newly acquainted) to stay and drinke a pot with him in the meane time. And in these Country Voyages doe they sayle by other points of the Compasse, the windes are not so boysterous, nor the Sea so rough as the former, for heere is there neyther one that playes the Drunkard, nor any that swaggers, but these diuelish Masquers, passe vnder these names at such meetings. viz. 1. The party that fetcheth in the Gull (whose feathers they meane to plucke) is not called the Taker, but the Setter. 2. He that second him, keepes his first title, and is called the Verser.

3 He that loseth his money, not a Cozen but a Cony. 4 He

that

that comes in, and before counterfeyted the drunken Barnard is now sober, and called the Barnacle.

Sometimes likewise this Card-cheating, goes not under the name of Barnards Law, but is called Bat-fowling, and then the Setter is the Better, the sole that is caught in the net, the Bird, the Tauerne to which they repayre to worke the feat, is the Bush, the wine the Strap, and the Cards the Limetwigs.

Thus haue I discouered a strange Art, by which Coueys are caught after a new manner of Hunting, and Cozens found out that were neuer of the kindred before. Thus the honest Farmer simply going about his businesse, is stripped of that money, which should further his Law-suites, and so perhappes is ouerthrowne. Thus the Seruingman being sent with his Lordes treasure is cheated, and turned out of seruice. Thus the Prentize hauing his Maisters wealth in his hand, is robbed (by tame theeues) and in the end driuen to runne away, or to dye in prison. Thus the Gentleman comming new to his Land, is made a beggar: Thus the Marchant is vndone. Thus all men are abused. Thus the Common wealth is dishonoured by feeding such Vipers in her wombe, that can not liue but by gnawing out of her bowels.

Vincents Law.

The Dycing Cheater, and the couzening Card-player, walke in the beabites of Gentlemen, and carry the Faces of honest men: So likewise doe these that are Students in the Vincents Law, whose Inne is a bowling Alley, whose bookes are bowles, and whose Law-cases are Iarches and rubbers. The pastime of Bowles is now growne to a common exercise, or rather a Trade, of which, some of all Companies are free, the sport is not so common as the cozenage vsed in it, which to haue it liue with credite, and in a good name tis called the Vincents Law.

In this Law they which play booty are the Bankers.
He that betteth is the Gripe.
He that is cozened is the Vincent.
The gaines gotten is called Termage.

The Bankers are commonly men apparrelled like honest and sub-

substantiall Citizens, who come into the Bowling Allies for a Rubbers or so, as though it were rather for sport, then for any gaines, professing they care not whether they winne or lose: which carelesnesse of theirs is but a shadow to their pretended knauery: whilest they are crying Rub, rub, rub, and a great one, In come the spectators dropping one by one, and stand leaning ouer a Raile to behold them; of which oftentimes some simple men that neuer saw common Bowling Alley before, may perhaps bee of the number, and is brought in of purpose by one of their owne Brotherhood to bee rid of his money: if such a yong bird happen amongst them, and doe once but chirp, thats to say, either take or offer any lay, they all harken to his note, especially if hee sing shrilly, that is to say bee deepe: if there bee good store of Lookers on, then are there certaine old soakers, whose office is to doe nothing but listen for bettes, either euen or odde: these are called Gripes; which Gripes will refuse no Lay, if the odds may grow to their aduantage, for the Gripes and the Banckers are sworne Brothers to the Deuil (their Father in lawe) and the bowles haue such vertue in them, that their bialles will directly runne as the Gripes haue placed their Bettes, the Banckers (albeit they so play as if they minded nothing but their owne game) yet haue still an eare how the layes are made, and according to that leuell doe they throw their Bowles, so that bee sure the bowlers play booty: for suppose 7. bee vp for the game, and that the one side hath 3. the other none, then the Vincent (who is the Nouice that standeth by, and is not acquainted with the tallents of these Gripes, nor feeles not when they draw blood of him, no nor doth not so much as carry an euill thought of the Bowlers that they should play booty, loking so granely and so like to honest men) hee poze tolte, seeing three to none, beginnes to grow lustie, and to offer odds on that side which is fairest for the game: what odds saies the Gripe? 3. to one cries the Vincent: no sayes the Gripe it is more, and with that the Bankers are come to foure for none, then the Vincent offers to lay foure to one: I take six to one sayes the Gripe, I lay it cryes the Vincent: and so they make a bet of six Crownes, shillings, or pence, as the Vincent is of abilitie to lay: and thus will sundry take their ods of him: Da then goe the Bankers with the game, and win another cast which is fiue for none; at

this

this sales fortune of his, the Vincent grinnes for ioy, scratches his elbowe, and is so proud, that no ground about the Alley can hold him, thinking verily both by the odds and gudnesse of the play, it is impossible for his side to lose, and therfore (being now sole-hardy) he takes and layes bets freely, all eyes greedily marking the euent of this matter: At the length on a sudaine, the Sun begins to shine on the other side that were none, and they win perhaps so long til they come to three or fiue and still as their luck alters, diuersity of bets are laid, till at last they are fiue for fiue: and then the Gripe comes vpon the Vincent, and offers him odds, which if the Vincent fall vpon, he loseth all, for vpon what side soeuer the Gripe layes, that side euer wins, how great soeuer the odds be at first on the contrary part, so that the Cozenage growes in at playing booty. This sower banquet to the Vincent is seasoned with sweet meats to the Bankers and the Gripes, who at night meet in some Tauerne, and there the money gotten by this base meanes, which money they call Termage.

Now to shadow the villany the more, the Banker that wins and is aforehand with the Game, will lay frankely that he shal winne, and will bet hard, and lay great odds, but with whom? either with them who play with him that are as crafty knaues as himselfe, or else with the Gripe: and this makes the Vincent to stope to the blow the sooner. Besides, if any honest men that hold themselues skilfull in bowling, offer to play any set match against these common bowlers, if these Bankers feare to haue the worst, and suspect the others play to be better than theirs, then haue they a tricke in watring of the alley to giue such a moisture to the banke, that he who offers to strike a bowle with a shoe, shall neuer hit it whilst he liues, because the moysture of the Banke hinders the proportion of his Ayming.

Many other practises there are in Bowling, tending to cozenage, but the greatest and grossest is Booty, in which the deceipt is so open and palpable, that I haue seene men stone blind offer to lay bets frankely, although they could see a bowle no more then a post, onely by hearing who plaid, and how the old Gripes had made their layes.

Thus sports that were inuented for honest recreation, are by the wicked abusing of them, turned to mens confusion. And

not only in these Games before rehearsed, but also in those that are both more laudable, and more lawfull. For in the Tennis-Court cheating hath a hand, yea and in shooting, which is the Noblest exercise of our English Nation, arrowes doe now and then flie with false Feathers. Since then that all kinde of Gaming serues but as Gulphes to deuoure the Substances of men, and to swallow them vp in beggery: My counsell is vtterly either to refraine such pastimes, or if men are of such Spirits that they must needes venture their money, then to bee very prouident how they play, and to bee choise of their company. Now let vs turne ouer the volumes of other Lawes, enacted in the Parliament of these Deuills.

The Blacke Art.

HAuing waded thus farre in these Puddles of damn'd impiety, it shall not bee amisse to goe on, and search euen to the bottome and farthest shoare of them: to effect which the sooner, we must now deale in the Blacke Arte. It is not that Blacke Art, by which men coniure vp spirits, and raise Deuills in Circles, to tell where money is hid, or whither goods that are stolne are conuayed; But this Blak Art, is to fetch away money where it lyes, and to raise vp a fiend in a rich Mercers or Goldsmithes shop at midnight without the ayde of a staring Coniurer. This Blacke Art worketh in darknes, as well as the other: it deales with the Deuill as the other doth, and is as vnlawfull as the other is: if you will needes (in a word) know the mistical meaning of this Blacke Art, it is called in English Picking of Lockes, and this Engine of mischiefe turnes vppon these fiue wheeles, viz.

The Picklocke is called a Charme.
He that watcheth if any body come is the Stand.
The toles that do the busines are called Wrestlers.
Picking of the locke is called Farling.
The gaines gotten is Pilferie.

Now albeit that two persons onely are imployed in this vndermining of a house, viz. the Charme & the Stand, yet the burglarie is committed by other hands, which are in a readinesse to receiue the goodes (when the house is entred) and to con-

uey

ney them in parcels away. The Charme (who is the Maister of this Blacke Art,) goes like a Conjurer, with a number of Keyes and wyers like so many Pentacles about him, wherby hee calls Pick-locks, and for euery sundry fashion, they haue a sundry fearne, but being ignorant of their words of Art, I omit them, onely alluding you thus much, that the Charme hath such cunning, and such dexterity in opening of a Locke (and that without any great noyse) that no ward whatsoeuer (bee it neuer so doubled) but flies backe at his Jugling with it. Some haue their instruments from Italy made of steele, some are made heere in England by Smiths that are partners and partakers in their villanous occupations. But howsoeuer, the Trade of Lock-picking may well bee called the Black-Art, for none studyes it, but those that for other mens goods haue solde their very Soules to the Deuill.

The Curbing Law.

The Blacke Art and the Curbing Law, are grounded both vpon the selfe same positions: for the Blacke Art teaches how to breake open a Locke, the Curbing Law how to hooke goods out of a window; they both are workers in Iron, both are begotten in Iolenes, both line by villany, and both die by infamy. A smith is the maker and setter vp of these two trades: the hangman is the vtter vndoer of them. This Curbing Law spreades it selfe into foure maine branches.

He that hookes is cal'd the Curber.
He that playes the spy is the Warpe.
The Hooke is the Curbe.
The goods are called Snappings.

The Gin to open the window is a Tricker.

The office of the Curber is for the most part betimes in the mornings (at the discharging of a watch) to bee vp more earely then a noyse of thrugging Fidlers, and the Husbandry which he follows is in the day time to watch what shoppes or windowes stand fittest for his trade, which if hee find easily to bee opened, then the Comp is in the purlue without much fretting: But if hee must take paines for his liuing, out come his Trickers, and then (as if hee were a brother of the Blacke-Art) both hee with those

those Iron engines, cut a bar of Iron in sunder, in such sort that scarse the standers by shal heare him. The window being thus open, & that he hath god hope to mate with fat Snappings, (or rich purchase) the Warp hustles to play his part and watches with Cats-eyes in the darke, loking (like one a squint, or as if he stood to catch Hares) two waies, one to spy who comes, the other to note what comes out at a window: to carry which away he is furnished with a long Cloake. But first must the Curber play his prize, and that is with an Iron about nine foot in length, at whose end (being crooked) are three Tynes turned contrary, so that they catch euery way, if any snappings be within their reach. This hooke or Curb is made with ioynts like an Angling rodde, and in the day time is conueyed into the forme of a Truncheon, and worne like a walking staffe till night, when it is put to doe other seruice.

Whatsoeuer the Curber with his angle fishes for and takes, the Warp beares it away, and hee deliuers it either to a Broker or some bawd (for they all are of one feather,) of which Receiuers they haue as present money for it, as if they traded with Marchants. Then is there (belonging to this faculty) a Diuer, and hee is iust in the nature of a Curber, for as the one practises his villany with a hooke, so the Diuer workes his iugling feats by the helpe of a boy (called a Figger) whom he thrusts in at a casement, being so well studied that hee hath the principles of the Blacke Art, and can picke a locke if it be not too much crosse warded: this Figger deliuers to the Diuer what snappings he finds in the shop or chamber.

The Prigging Law.

BEeing weary with going thus faire on foote, let vs now (sithence wee haue ouertaken a Horseman) get vp and ride along with him. Yet now I loke vpon him well, it is more safety and better policy to let him ride by himselfe, for he rides circuite with the Deuill, and Dericke must bee his host, and Tyborne the Inne at which he will light. This ranck-rider is of the family of Knights errant, or of those wandring Rogues that march in the first files of my booke, his name is a Prigger, deriuing his title from his practise, which is called the

Prig-

Prigging Lawe, whose grounds are the cleanely and cunning stealing of horses.

This Prigging Arte runnes into six riuers, all of them falling into one streame, and all of them flowing from one head.

He that steales the horse, is called the Prigger.

The horse is called a Prancer.

The seller away of the stolne horse is a Martar.

The Tolling house is called Allhallowes.

The tiller is the Ruffen.

The swerties at the toll-booke are called Querries.

A Prigger on foote is called Trayler.

The Prigger if he be a lance-man (that is to say, one that is already horst) then rides he in state, attended by followers, who are either like his seruants in liueries, or in the habite of Gentlemen, or most commonly in the shapes of Drouers: in this equipage doe they walke vp and downe meadowes and pastures or other inclosed grounds, as if their purpose were to buy Cattell, whereas their eyes are onely busied in noting horses that are worth the stealing, and whether their heeles are fettred with horse-locks or no.

The first circle being drawne in the day time, the next night following our Priggers fall to coniuring, and by the spells of the Black-Art, picke open the Trammels or Locks, and then like bats or Diules away they fly ouer hedge & ditch out of those quarters. The owners in the morning may smell out their sattleys and see which way they are rid post, but vnlesse either the Deuill himselfe either went with a candle & lanthorne before them, the Priggers would neuer be found, or else carried them on his backe, and bid them to hold fast by his horne whilst hee galloped, if it were not possible to ouertake them. For this policy they vse, if the Prigger steale a horse in Yorke-shire, he sels him in Surrey Kent or Sussex, to their Martars (so called of hunting Morts or Faires) who receiue them at the Priggers hands, chop them away in some blind faires or other after they haue kept them a moneth or two till the breath of the Hue and Cry be blowne ouer.

If the horse be of any value and much inquired after, or carry such brands or rare-markes about him, that they cannot put him off without danger, then doe these Priggers brand him with a

crosse-brand on the former, or take away his eare-marke, and so keepe him at hard meate till hee bee perfectly recouered, or else will they sell him in Cornewall or Wales, if hee bee fetcht out of Cumberland, Lincolneshire, Norfolke or Suffolke. But if the Horse bee openly couered and without Brandes, then haue they shifts to spot them so strangely, that a man shall hardly know his owne Horse if hee meete him, as to marke a black-horse with saddle-spots, or to starre him in the fore-head, and change his taile, the secrets of which are not fit in print to bee discouered, least laying open the abuse, I should teach some how to practise it.

This is the life of the Prigger, who trauels vp and downe the whole Kingdome vpon his Gelding of 20. and 40. Pound price, and is taken for a man of good worth, by his outward shew, beeing (amongst his owne fraternity of Horse-stealers) called a Prigging lance-man. But hee that borrowes a nag out of another mans pasture, and cares not so hee may get money for him, how hee puts him away, only to supply his wants, is called a Trayler: These Traylers trot vppon the hoofe, and are sootmen, meane in apparell, though not meane in their theeuing trade: you shall haue them attired like plaine Country grans, walking (like out threed-bare gallants in Powles) in boots without spurs, and sometimes without bootes, long staues on their necks, and blacke buckram bags at their backs, as if they were Lawyers Clyents, and carried letters vp and downe: but those buckram bags are the Horses wardrope: In those bagges doe those sneaking Traylers put saddle, bridle, spurres, stirrops, and stirrop leathers, all this Hackney housholdstuffe beeing made so quaintly, that the deepe slop of a hose is able to hide it: for the saddle is fashioned without any tree (yet hath it cantle & bolsters) but artificially quilted together with cloth & bumbast, and with such soloes that it may easily bee wrapt vppe in a little roome: the stirrops goe with vices and ginnes, that one may put them into a paire of Gloues, so likewise doe the spurres, and then a little white leather head-stale and raines, with a small Scottish brake or snaffle, all of them so neately framed, that a small bag will containe them. And looke how the Lance-man rides post when hee sits vppon his prey, so when the Trayler, is in the Saddle, away hee Gallops as if euery Jade of Sea-

seuen nobles prize, were a winged Pegasus, selling him as farre off from the place where hee stole him, as possibly hee can.

Now because these Priggers though they breake the law in one point, yet they make it whole in another, and verie orderly come to the Toll-booke, bringing two (of their owne religion) ciuilly attired (fitting the place) who not only affirme, but offer to depose, that they know the horse to bee his owne that sels it: yet are those caytifes no better then old Knights of the post that will periure themselues for pots of Ale, and neuer saw perhaps either the Prigger or the Prancer before these wicked Elders, hauing beene for villanies banished out of Westminster Hall, or for their perinries stood and lost their eares on the Pillorie, retire themselues into the Country, and professe this kinde of life, being by the Horse-stealers called (though they are far vnworthy of so good a name) Querries: leauing whom (with the horse-men their good Lord and Maisters) either to an amendment of manners, or to the mercy of the Hangman, who must teach them to ride his wooden curtall, let vs, because we are now lifting them out of the saddle, turne ouer a new leafe, and reade a lecture in the Lifting law.

The Lifting Law.

THe Lifting Law, is not the Law of Porters, who liue by lifting, & cry to another, lend me your hand, when honestly they are to carry a burthen for a penny, and safely to deliuer it to the owner backe againe: but this Law teacheth a kind of lifting of goods cleane away. In such liftings are three sorts of Leamers vsed to get vp the baggage viz.

He that first stealeth the parcell is called, The Lift.

He that receiues it is the Marker.

He that stands without and carries it away, is the Santar.

The goods thus purhased, is called Garbage, which Garbage is sometime Plate or Iewels, sometimes peices of velvet, sometimes Cloakes or Lawyers gownes, sometimes one thing, sometimes another.

The practitioners of this lifting Law, take seuerall degrees; for some of them (and they are the Punies) are but base Rogues, that

that liue by lifting quart pots, platters, and such trash out of Tipling houses, vnder colour of spending two or three pots of Ale. These are the Rascallity of this Heard. But the Gentleman Lifter walkes with this Marker at his heeles, as if hee were a Countrie Gentleman of 500. a yeare, and comming into a Mercers shop or Gold-smiths shop, presently talks by his cloak (to colour his intents) the Marker standing bare-headed not far from him his worship, then cals for a belt of Sattin, Velluet, Cloath of Gold or Siluer; or any of the richest commodities: and not liking the pile, colour or black, his eye must haue the choyce of more, the Marker in meane time whilst the Mercer is busie and turnes his backe, hath the Garbage thrust towards him by the Lifter, and conueyes it vnder his cloake, the Sentar who walks in the street, palling then in great hast by the owre, is called backe by the Marker, as if hee were such a Gentlemans, Knights, or Noble-mans seruant: but the Sentar sweares hee cannot stay, the Marker tels him hee must needs haue one word with him, and so stepping along with him some part of the way, secretly conueies the Garbage to the Sentar.

Other Lifts there are, that haunt Noble-mens houses at Marriages or solemne Reuellings in Christmas, and the Halls of companies when they make Feasts, at which times they lift away Goblets or other peeces of Plate, nappery, or any thing worth the ventring for.

Other pick Councellors Chambers, that are well clyented, and sit downe in the outer roomes like Country men, hauing blacke bores by their sides, and papers in their hand: but their attendance is not for counsell, nor to pay any fees, but to Lift away Gownes or Cloakes, by the rules of their owne Law. The like payre of Indentures doe they draw in shops, betweene Scriueners and themselues.

Another more cunning then all these Liftings, is when in an euening, a Barfowler walks vp and downe the streetes, and counterfeits that hee hath let fall a Ring a Jewell, or a peece of Gold, requesting some Prentice (when there is but one in the shop) to lend him his candle a while to find his losses, who simply doth so, but the Lifter poring a good while and not meeting with his Ring lets the candle in the end slip out of his fingers, and whilst the Prentice steps in to light it againe, the Sentar or hee

her himselfe steales what garbage they can finger, and are gone in the meane time.

You haue another kind of Lifter, or more properly a cunning night shifter, and it is thus: You shall haue a fellow, that is an euening or night time, or sometime at none dates, as hee likes the company, and sorts his opportunity, that will wilfully drop sometime a spone, other while a ring, or else some peece of coyned money, as the likenes of Gold and siluer, and so spurning it afore them in the view of others, to the end they should crie halfe part, which he taking hold of, saith, nay by my troth, what will you giue me and take it all? and so some greedy soles offer thus much, thinking it Gold, which the Lifter takes, as knowing it counterfeit, and so are they cunny-caught.

Then is there a kind of Lift, who like a Iugler doth all his feates of himselfe, not caring for the helpe of others, hee goes attired like a Seruingman, booted and spurd and dirty as if hee had new ridden: his haunts are the best townes in the Country vpon market dates, but most commonly Faires: the birds hee watches for, are Knights, Esquiors, or Gentlemen that light at the greatest Innes, whither most resort is, who shall no sooner come from horse, but this Lifter is ready to hold his stirrop, or to walke his horse as officiously as if he were his cloth: So that to the Guest he seemes to bee one to bee belonging to the house, and to the seruants of the house hee appeares to bee a follower of the Gentleman newly alighted. But the guest being departed from his Inne to the towne, or into the Faire, backe comes this counterfeit Blew-coate, running in all hast for his Maisters cloake-bag or portmantua, and cals to the ostler or Chamberlaine by his name to deliuer it, because some thinges must bee taken out for his Knight or the Gentleman his Maister, that are in it. The prey is put (hereupon) into the vultures tallants, and away flies hee presently to his nest, to feed and fat his rauenous gorge with the garbage which he hath gotten.

But what nests thinke you they flie to? marrie to the house either of some notorious trebble-thiud band (in whose beddes commonly these Serpents lye lurking) who keepes a tipling house and brings vp young Trugs (vnder the colour of filling Cans) that are Harlots to the Lifts, or else to the shops of certaine brokers, who traffick only in this kind of marchandize

and by bills of sale (made in the name of Robin-good fellow and his crew) get the goods of honest Cittizens into their hands either detaining them so long in their chests til they be no more sought after, or else so altring them that the Owners shall hardly know them. Thus the Lift and his mates prepare the lime-twigs and catch the bird, but the Bawde and Broker eate the flesh, and giue the other onely the feathers.

The High Law.

ALl this while haue I read vnto you the beggarly Lawe, and base common Lawes of Villany, by which the Outlawes of a kingdome, and Out-casts of a well gouerned Common-wealth, maintaine their damnable courses. Now must you cast vp your eyes and loke aloft, if you haue a desire to behold the picture of the High Law, which taketh that name frō the high exployts that are acted by it: the Schollers that learne it are called High Lawyers, yet they neuer walke to Westminster to plead, though oftentimes they are called to the Barre, but then it is to haue them to Hold vp their hands, that the hangman may tell them their fortune. All the former lawes are attained by wit, but the High Law, stands both vpon Wit and Manhood. For the High Lawe is nothing else but taking a purse by the High-way-side, so that to bée a good practitioner in this Law, a man néeds no more but a bold sterne loke, a good heart, and a good sword: The cases that hée is to plead vpon, is onely Stand, and deliuer; All trauellers are so beaten to ỳ trials of this Law, that if they haue but rode ouer Shooters Hill, or Salisbury Plaine, they are as perfect in the principles of it, as if they had bēn 7. yeares in the company of High-Lawiers. The Counsell a High Lawyer giues is common, but his fées are vnreasonable, for hée strips his Clients of all. The motions which hée makes are both in Terme & out of Tearme; I shall not need therefore to open any of his Cases, But only will tell you thus much, ỳ this high law is comprehended in fiue Volumes, viz.

The thése that commits the Robery, and is chiefe clarke to Saint Nicholas, is called the High Lawyer.

Hé that setteth the watch is a Scripper.

Hé that stands Centinell and does watch, is an Oke.

Hé

Hée that is rob'd, is the Martyn.
When he yéeldeth, it is called Stooping.

All the shires in England haue séene these High-law matters tryed, and therefore if any would know them, or the professors of them to a haire, let him but step into the Old-baily at any Sessions, and hée shall heare more.

The Sacking Law.

The Companion of a Theefe is commonly a Whore; it is not amisse therefore, to pinneon them together: for what the théefe gets, the strumpet spends. The trade of these Talebearers goes vnder the name of the Sacking law; and rightly may it bée called sacking, for as in the sacking of a City, all the villanies in the world are set abroach, so when a Harlot comes to the sacking of a mans wealth and reputation (for shée bestrideth both together) she leaues no Stratagem vnpractised to bring him to confusion. Westminster and Holborne haue Chambers full of these students of the Sacking law. In Clerken well, they had wont and are still well clyented: White Friers is famous for their meeting: The Spittle flourishes with the yong frie that are put to it to learne it. Sacks come to these Mils euery houre, but the Sacking lawe emptyes them faster then a Miller grindes his bushels of corne. Hée that hath a lust to practise this Law, must bée furnished with these fine Bookes, viz.

The Baud, who if she be a woman is called a Pandaresse.
The Apple-squire, who is to fetch in wine.
The Whore who is called the commodity.
The Whore-house, which is called a Trugging place.

These fine Anchors are so well knowne, & haue bèen so turned ouer leafe by leafe, that euery man (almost) that lines in sight of the smoake of the Citty, hath them at his fingers ends, or if hée cannot, it is an easie matter to find them by a Table, I will onely referre you to the Suburbs. But there is a second part of this Sacking law, and that instructs Punckes to attire themselues neately in summer euenings, and about ten or eleuen of the clocke at night to walke vp and downe the most peopled stréetes of the Citty, very soberly & gingerly, till the wine

(by one Gull or other) be offered, which with a little intreaty he takes; but being in the midst of their bowles, or perhaps the silly cony being trayned home to a lodging, where he fals to Nobling, in comes a Ruffian with a drawne rapier, cals the Punck (as he is) damned whore, askes what Rogue that is, and what hee does with his wife? The conclusion of all this counterfeit swaggering being a plot betwixt this panderly ruffian and the whore to geld the silly fole of al the money he hath in his purse, and sometimes to make him (rather then his credit should bee called into question) to seale a bill or bond for other summes of money at lusty and such dates, and so send him packing, when he hath paid twoare for a bad dish of meat which he never tasted: the base Applesquier and his young mistresse, laughing to see what a woodcocke they pul'd, and sharing the feathers betweene them. But when such remedies (of the Sacking Law) as these are plaid, then the Actors haue other names then are set downe before, and these they be:

The whore is then called the Trafique.
The man that is brought in, is the Simpler.
The Ruffian that takes him napping, is the Crosbiter.

The Figging Law.

The Parliament of these bel-hounds, it seemes will soone breake vp, for they stand now onely vpon the last Law; which they call Figging Law: In making of which law two persons haue the chiefest voices, that is to say, the Cut-purse and the Pick-pocket, and all the branches of this law reach to none but them and such as are made free denizens of their incorporation. This Figging Law (like the body of some monstrous and terrible beast) stands vpon ten feete, or rather lift vp proudly ten Dragon-like heads: the names of which heads are these. viz.

He that cuts the purse is called the Nip.
He that is halfe with him is the Snap, or the Cloyer.
The knife is called a Cuttle-bung.
He that pickes the pocket is called a Foist.
He that faceth the man is the Stale.
The taking of the purse is called Drawing.

The spying of this villany is called Smoking or Boyling.
The purse is the Bung.
The money the Shels.
The act doing is called Striking.

This Figging Law hath more quirkes and quiddities in it then any of the former; it is as dangerous to meddle with as the High-Lawe, in pleading whose cases men are at daggers drawing: the schollers of this Art are cunning Sophisters, and had needs to haue more eies then two in one head, because the Arguments they hold, and their bold villanies which they practise, are argued vpon and iustified to his teeth with whom they contend. The Foyst and the Nip (that is to say the Pocket diuer and the cutpurse) are fellowes together and of one religion, but differ in some points. A purse well lined is the wet Eele they both bob for, but they striue to catch it by the taile after seuerall fashions. For the Nip workes with his knife, the Foyst with his hand: the Nip cuts the purse, the Foyst drawes the pocket: both their occupations are taught them by the Deuill, yet they both brag of the excellencie of them, and are ready sometimes to stab one another, about defending which is best: for the Foist counts himselfe the better man, and therefore is called (by the liuery of his company) a Gentleman Foist and so much scornes the title of a cutpurse, that he weares not a knife about him to cut his owne meate, least he be held in suspition to bee a Nip, which hee esteemes the basest office in the whole Army of Cheaters.

These schollers of the Figging Law, are infinite in number, their Colledge is great, their orders many, and their degrees (which are giuen to them by the Seniors of the house) very ancient, but very abhominable.

The language which they speak is none of those which came in at the confusion of Tongues, for neither Infidel nor Christian (that is honest) vnderstands it, but the Dialect is such and so crabbed, that seuen yeares study is little enough to reach to the bottome of it, and to make it run off glib from the tongue: by meanes of this Gibrish, they know their owne nation when they meete, albeit they neuer saw one another before; and so conformable are they to the ordinances of the Brotherhoode, that whatsoeuer wicked Elders amongst them shal prescribe,

Actum est, tis a Law, and they will not breake it, yea not the proudest of them dare bee so bold as to exercise his Art in any other place but in those that are appointed to him, nor once presume to set his foote into anothers walke, but by licence of the Signiorie.

For that purpose therfore, (as if a whole kingdome were theirs) they allot such countries to this Band of Foists, such townes to those, and such a Citty to so many Nips: whereupon some of these Boote-halers are called Termers, and they ply Westminster Hall: Michaelmas Terme is their harvest, and they sweat in it harder then reapers or hay-makers doe at their works in the heat of summer. No Councellor, Attourney, Pettifogger nor Solicitor is vp earlyer then they: nor at the Hall sooner then they: when Clyents begin to come crowding in, watermen ply not their fares more nimbly then the Nips, & Foists bestir themselues to picke vp their chels; the hal and the old pallace are their Hiues, and they worke in them like Bees: the Exchequer Chamber, Star-chamber, Kings bench and Common pleas, and Chancerie are the beds of flowers, to which they fly humming to & fro continually to sucke the hony of gold and siluer. If a poore Clyent do but stand by his Lawyer whilst hee is pleading, and drawes out his purse to pay his fees for counsell, or to the Court for dispatch of his businesse, these furies are sure to be at his elbow, watching (with Hawks eies) on which side he puts vp his purse, to that side they fly, and if their tallents can but touch it, it is their owne.

Others of them haue all the flesh and fish markets allowed them for their walks, as Cheape-side, East-cheap, the Shambles, both Fishstreets, the Stocks, and the Borough in Southwarke, in which places these faithfull Stewards of Lucifers Houshold, cheapon all commodities, only to note what money wiues or seruants that come to buy, haue in their purses, and where they put it vp, which being well obserued, the Stall plyes his market, and followes him or her (whose siluer is condemned) till they come to a presse of people: then does the Stall keep a thrusting and a Jugling, whilst in the meane time the Foist is either in their pocket, or the Nip hath the purse fast by the strings. Others haunt Ale-houses only, & the Beare-garden: some haue their precinct lying in the walkes of Paules, their houres

houres of méeting there being betweene 10 and 11. the strokes they strike being sometimes in the middle Ile, if it be in Terme time, when the walks are full, but most commonly at the doores of the Church, which they will choake, and striue for passage, whilst another doe the feat. At running at Tilt, the L. Maiors day, any great shooting, any fray, any solemne arraignment, or execution, is better to these Hel-hounds, then a quarter day is to a Land-lord, or then fine Sessions are to the Hangman. Yea so seareleſſe are these Diuels to be throwne headlong, & quicke into the pit of damnation, that euen in Gods own house, & the sacred Temple, do they desperatly commit their villanies, standing most deuoutly with eyes eleuated vp to heauen, before the preacher, where the presse of people is thickest, whilst their hãds are nibling in honest mens pockets for their purses, who are careles of such worldly matters there, as not mistrusting that any so bad minded dare enter into so holy a place. These Nips and Foists go oftentimes cleanely away with the shels which they get, but oftentimes are they dogged by certaine fellowes (called Cloyers) who hang vpon them like Burres, and are more troublesome then waspes: for no sooner is a bung drawn, but the Cloier steps in for his Tenth, which he cals Snappage, if the Nip deny Snappage, the Cloyer forthwith Boyles him, that is, bewrayes him or seaseth on his cloake.

You must vnderstand likewise, that both of Nips & Foysts there are two sorts, for there be City Nips, and country Nips, whose office is to haunt nothing but Faires; these country nips neuer come into London to doe any peece of seruice, but at Barthomewtide onely. Betweene these two sects is mortall enmitie, for if the City Foist spy one of the country Foists in london, he forthwith labours and laies wait to smoake or Boyle him, the like does the countrie Nip or Foist by him of the City. There are also women Foists and Nips as well as men, but farre more daungerous then the men: All the troupes of both seres being subiect to the discipline of the Grand Nips & Foists, and from whom, the better to receiue directions both what to doe, and what quarters to keepe (for they shift their walkes according to the pleasure of the chiefe rangers) they haue a certaine house, sometimes at one end of the towne, somtimes at another, which is their hall; at this Hall the whole company doe

méete

mæte very orderly: by which meanes whensoeuer any notable or workemanlike strok is stricken, though it were as far as the North-borders, yet can the rest of the Fig-boies heere resident in London, tell by whom this worthy Act was plaide.

At this solemn mæting in their Hall, they chose Wardens, and Steward: the Wardens office is to establish wholesome Lawes to kæpe life in their rotten Common-wealth, and to assigne out to euery man his Stations. The treasurers office is very truely (though hæbæ an arrant thæfe) to render an account of such moneys as are put into his hands vpon trust: for of euery purse (that is cleanely conueyed and hath good store of Shels in it) a ratable portion is deliuered (in Banck as it were) to the Treasurer, to the intent that when any of them is taken and cast into prison, a Flag of truce may presently be hung out, and composition offered to the wronged party, thereby to saue a brother of the society from riding west ward. This had wont to be an order amongst them: But now the Under-kæpers of New-gate, (if complaint bæ made to them for the losse of any purse, thaue a tricke to get a warrant, into which warrant they put the names of nine or ten of the most notorious Foists and Nips that are free of their Gaole (which they call Whittington Colledge) and those Nips and Foists doe the Jaylors nip, till the money perhaps doublebæ restored, albeit not one of them that are specified in the warrant were guilty of the fact: This tricke doth greatly impouerish the tradesmen of this misteries, and may in time vtterly ouerthrow the Students of the Figging Law.

The fiue Iumpes at Leap-frog.

THe whole volume of these detestable Lawes is now read ouer, to catch a heate therefore after so long sitting, let vs exercise our selues a while at a new play, called the fiue Iumpes at Leape-frog. The propertie of the game at Leape-frog, is (as euery Prentice & Carter knowes) for one man to stope, to let another come ouer him, so in these Iumpes the running Cheaters sweate only to make a man stope so lowe, that they may breake his backe, and then they ride ouer his misery with laughter.

The

The first Iump is called Horse-coursing, and that is done thus; A fellow in good cloathes, and with an honest face to the eie, hires of a carter an Hag to ride along with him to Cambridge, Oxford, Norwich, or any great Towne of trade: but let the iourney be neuer so long, this Rider will end it in a forenoone at most, for whilst the Carter is busie about his terme on the way, and loking to his charge, my horse-courser steps aside into some by-lane, and lights at some paltry Towne neere the citty where he will lye, till he haue in (capons and wine) eaten vp the carters beast aliue; and then departs on fote, sending the poore man woord where his prancer standes at racke & manger, who if hee will haue him, must disburse forty shillings or Three Pound, for his Iades diet. The Hackneymen of Rochester haue beene oftentimes come ouer with this Iumpe at Leape-frog, and know the game well, for a man cannot name it, but they are ready to giue it a turne.

The second Iump is called carrying of stones, and that is performed on this maner: A crue of sharking companions (of which there bee sundry consorts lurking about the Suburbs of this Citty) being driuen out of meanes, by leauing base and idle lines, or else by their riotous expences amongst whores, practise to liue vpon the fee-simple of their wits; and hauing amongst them all some little money left (which they call their shooing-horne) they seeke out some blind victualing house, or Cookes house, without the barrs, whose Host (if it be possible) is either an asse easie to bee ridden, or else a common drunkard. In this Colts house will they sit carowsing halfe cannes day and night and pay royally at first for what they call, that shooing-horne of theirs drawing the Host and Hostesse on to beleeue they shal be made for euer by these guests: who to gull the poore Goose-cap the better, draw all their acquaintance they can to the house, neuer either drinking or feeding, but mine Host must sit at the bords end like a Magnifico in pomp, with his ale-dropt-greasie doublet shining by candle light, as if it were an old rusty Armor scrurily scowred. But when these Horse-leeches haue suckt their guts full, or rather the pittifully complaining Hosts guts empty, that hee finds by his scores he can truck no more, then do they at one time or other talke of state matters, or of religion when the goodman of the house can scarce stand on his

legs vnder his owne roofe, and trip him in some words, which the next day (being told of it, & the words iustified to his face) hée knowes hée dares not answere, with which hooke holding his nose to the grindstone, they write their mind in great round Oes of chalke, behinde a doore, which Oes they call stones: the waight of them being such, that looke how many shillings they make, so many times the wretched Hostesse cries O, as groning vnder the burden. Now Sir, of these Oes, twenty shillings make a loade, and ten pound make a barke-full: which when they haue well fraughted, these Dunkerks hoyst sayle and to Sea againe, they goe in another vessell to finde another Brazeeleman, that is to say, into another tipling house to finde another Jade whome they may all saddle and get vp vpon: if their last host follow them with a Bayliffe or a Sergeant, they only hold vp a finger, naming a Pursevant and cry Mum, no more mine Hoast, you wot what, which wordes are of more power to blow him away, then if you fierd him thence with traines of gunpowder. By meanes of this Iump, some Victuallers haue leaped cleane out of doores, and with the fall haue bœne ready to lye in the strœtes.

The third Iumpe is called Fawning those that leape at it are Fawneguests, and that is done in the edge of the euening, when a Cheater mœting a stranger in the darke and taking him for another, gets the stranger by some sleight to a Tauerne, where calling for two pints of sundry wines, the drawer setting the wines downe with two cups, as the custome is, the Iumper tastes of one pinte (no matter which) and finds fault with the wine, saying tis too hard, but rose-water and suger wold send it downe merrily, and for that purpose takes vp one of the cups telling the stranger, hée is well acquainted with the Boy at the Barre, and can haue two penny worth of Rosewater for a penny of him, and so steps from his seate, the stranger suspecting no harme, because the Fawne-guests leaues his cloake at the end of the table behind him. But this Iumpe comming to bée measured it is found that he that went to take his rising at the barre, hath stolen ground and out-leaped the other more fœte than hee can recouer in haste, for the cup is leaped away with him, for which the woodcoke that is taken in the sprindge, must pay fifty shillings or thrée poud, and hath nothing but

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an old thredbare cloake not worth 10 groats to make amends for his losses.

The fourth Iump is called Fooletaking, and that is done seuerall waies, sometimes by setting a couple of suttle rogues to sing ballads on a stall, till a number of people presse about them to buy their trash, and then their purses being discouered, are quickly in the nips fingers. Others are Foole-taken by letting chambers to fellowes like seruing men, in the name of such an esquier, or such a knight, or such a captaine new come from the low countries, bringing in a truncke exceeding heauie, and crambd full of brick-bats, which is left in the hired Chamber, and fiue times the value of it lifted away in stead of it. With this Iumpe many maid seruants, and their wealty Maisters haue beene ouer-reached by counterfeit kins-men that haue brought a cheese for a Gammon of Bacon to the poore wench, claiming kindred of her whether she will or no, and afterwards beeing (for his cheese and bacon) inuited to the Citizens table, haue in the night time taken away plate, or other commodities in exchange of his white-meats.

The fift Iumpe is called Spoone-meat, and that is a messe of knauery serued in about Supper time in the edge of an euening likewise, It is done thus: A silly fellowe in shew, attired like a clowne, spurnes (being neere some candle that stāds on a stall) a paper before him, in which is wrapt vp a spoone, taking vp which and looking on it by the light and making it knowne (by his loud talking & wondring what hee hath foūd) that hee tooke it vp by chance, people flocke about him, and imagine it is a siluer and gilt spoone, for it lookes very fayre, but hee seeming to bee an innocent coxcombe, knowes not hee saies, what hee should doe with such a gew-gaw: whereupon euery one is catching at it, and offers him money for it, hee wishes hee had rather found money than such a bable, for hee eates not his pottage in plate; in the end, some For amongst all the Cubbes that stand about him, whispers in his eare, to haue it from all the rest and thrusts a crowne priuily into his hand. The Iumper takes it, and sneakes away, the other gets home as fast as hee can, longing till he call his wife, al his houshold and neighbors about him, to shew what a pennie-

worth hee met with, but the guilt spone comming to bee tried of what mettall hee is made, the poore mans money proues copper, and he himselfe is laughed at for a Corcombe.

How long shall I saile vpon these godlesse waters? Is it not time to get a shore? Is it not fit that I should now sound a retreat and not weary my pen in the execution of such base and barbarous minded Caytiffes? What a battaile haue I vndertaken? and with what an ignoble enemie? to contend with whom is an act inglorious, and to conquer whom (but that they are open and professed foes to the Republick, to honesty, to ciuility, and to all humanity) were as much dishonor, as by them to bee ouercome.

Who would imagine that a Kingdome so fertill in all sorts of wholsome discipline, there should growe vp such rancke and such pestilent beds of hemlocke? That in the very heart of a state so rarely gouerned, and dieted by good Lawes, there should breed such loathsome and such vlcerous impostumes? That in a Cittie so politike, so ciuill, and so seuere, such vgly, base and bold impieties dare shew their faces? What an Army of insufferable Abuses, detestable Vices, most damnable Villanies, abominable pollutions, inexplicable mischeifs sordid inquinations, horrible and Hel-hound-like-perpetrated flagitious enormities haue bene heere mustered together? vnder what deuilish commanders are they conducted? what colours of damnation do they fight vnder, what dismall Ensigne doe they spread? what forces do they bring into the field? How full of courage they are? how full of cunning? how politicke are the Ring-leaders of these Faries? how resolute are all the troops? what strange armor haue they (of subtilties, & desperate boldnes) to encounter & set vpon their opposites? what artillery haue they to batter downe Order, Law, Custome, plaine dealing, and all the good guards and defences of Gouernement? What remayneth therefore (in an assault so dangerous to a Common-wealth, and so hotly and daily prosecuted) but that Iustice her selfe must come into the field, leading with her all her forces? That the Triple-body of the state may knit al their Nerues together and sit in Counsell, setting down stratagems and lawes how to race for euer (out of so noble a Kingdome)

such

ſuch Rebels to the peace and honour of it? That the Reuerend Iudges may out of a deteſtation of the liues of theſe monſters, lock vp their eyes and eares from pitty, when any of theſe Sauages are caught and brought before them: That all inferiour miniſters of Iuſtice, may bee vigilant, faithfull and ſeuere in hauating them into Gaoles, that are the fittеſt toyles for them to fall into, and that the hangman may not lye lazing and complaine for want of worke, ſo many infected bodies being to bee found in euery corner of the land, whom no medicine can cure, but the phiſicke which hee beſtowes vpon him at the Gallowes: Where I leaue them, as to the hauen in which they muſt all caſt Anchor, if Dericks Cables do but hold, and vnleſſe they amend. Giue thanks to the Belman of London, if either profit or pleaſure be gained by this Diſcouerie.

Operis Peroratio.

A ſhort Diſcourſe of Canting, which is the language ſpoken by all the Ragged Regiment that ſerue vnder the colours of the *Belman.*

THus hath our Belman (like a faithfull & watchfull Centinell) walkt his round: An army of a moſt ſtrange people hath hee muſtered together: In their true colours of villany hath he drawne theſe Free-booters, their habits, their behauiours and their properties, are to the life diſcouered: yet all this is but a dumbe picture. It ſhall not be amiſſe therefore if I giue ſpeech vnto it by lending it a tongue. In doing which you may perceiue how politicke a Commonwealth theſe Out-lawes of the Kingdome maintaine among themſelues, in deuiſing not onely ſtrange and ſubtill Stratagems to vphold them in a baſe and idle licentious kinde of life,

but also in inuenting a language which none vnderstand but those that are Students in their damb'd Arte, the better to couer their villanies, when they (in their talke) practise to set them abroach.

My purpose notwithstanding in this is not to bestow vpon you so liberall and full a discourse, as this matter doth require, but onely at this time to giue you a taste of that which in a second part of this booke shall (God willing) be more amply discouered. In which second part, our Bell-man of London shall bring to light a number of more notable enormities (dayly hatched in this Realme) then euer haue yet bene published to the open eye of the world. These are small spots, the other are the great blemishes, or rather the Vlcerous sores that make the body of a kingdome appeare vgly and deformed. A larger nette shall then be spread, and more dangerous serpents shall fall into the snare, to the intent that their stings may bee pulled out, and all their poison may be drawne from them, to make those that as yet know not how infectious they are, be afraide to approach or to be in sight of such deuouring Monsters. But because I will not haue them borne before their time (beeing yet but in the shell) least by that meanes they miscarrie in their brood, and so you should be deceiued in your expectation: let vs in the meane time stand with attentiue eares, and listen to an Vp-right-man whom I espie ready to encounter with a wilde Rogue. And this is their Dialogue.

A short Dialogue betweene an Vp-right-man and a Rogue, in the Canting-language.

The Vpright Cose Canteth to the Rogue.

1 *Vpr.* BEne lightmans to thy quarrones: in what lipken hast thou lipped in this darkemans? whether in a libbege, or in the Strummell?

2 *Rog.* I couched a Hogshead in a Skipper this darkmans.

3 *Vpr.* I towre the strummell tryne vpon the nabchet and togman.

4 *Rog.* I say by the Salomon I will lage it off with a gage of bene bowse: then cut to my nose watch.

5 *Vpr.* Why? hast thou any lowre in thy bung to bowse?

6 *Rog.*

6 *Rog.* But a flag, a win, and a make.

7 *Vpr.* Where is the ken that hath the bene bowſe?

8 *Rog.* A bene Mort, heereby at the ſigne of the prauncer.

9 *Vpr.* I cut, it is quire bowſe, I bowſd a flag the laſt darkmans.

10 *Rog.* But bowſe ther a bord & thou ſhalt haue benſhip: towre yee, yonder is the ken, dup the Giber, and mawnd that is benſhip.

11 *Vp.* This bowſe is as good as Rome bowſe, now I towre that bene bowſe makes naſe nabs, mawnd of this Mort, what bene pecke is in her ken?

12 *Rog.* She hath a cackling chefe, a grunting chefe, ruffe, peck, Caſſan; and poplars of yarum.

13 *Vpr.* That is benſhip to our watch; now wee haue well bowſd, let vs ſtrike ſome chete: yonder dwelleth a quire cuffen, it were benſhip to mill him.

14 *Rog.* So may we happen on the Harmans, and cly the Iarke, or to the quire ken, and ſcowre quire crampinges, and ſo to trymming on the chetes.

15 *Vpr.* The Ruffian cly thee, farwell and betrinde.

This is their phraſe, this the Rethoricke of our English Rogues, and this (vpon aduice or occaſion) they varrie, putting out ſome words, and in their ſtead inuenting others more new This was none of the language that was ſpoken at the confuſion of tongues, but this is a meere cõfuſion in it ſelfe. And becauſe you haue no Dictionaries to giue you the Engliſh of theſe words, you ſhall haue the ſelfe ſame companions ſpeake the ſame Dialogue in their owne naturall language.

The Vpright-man ſpeaketh to the Rogue.

1 Vpr. GOd morrow to thy body, in what houſe haſt thou lyen all night? in a bed or in the ſtraw?

2 Rog. I ſlept in a barne this night?

3 Vp. I ſee the ſtraw hang vpon thy cap and coat.

4 Rog. I ſweare by the Maſſe, I will waſh it off with a quart of good drinke, and then talke to me what thou wilt.

5 Vpr. Why? haſt thou any money in thy purſſe?

6 Rog. But a groat, a penny, and a halfe penny.

7 Vpr.

7 Vpr. Where is the house that has the good drinke?

8 Rog. Tis a good wench hereby at the signe of the horse.

9 Vpr. I say tis small and scurule drinke, I drunk a great heere last night.

10 Rog. But drinke there a shilling and thou shalt haue very good, see, yonder is the house, open the doore and call for the best.

11 Vpr. This drinke is as good as wine; now I see, that good drinke makes a drunken head: aske of this wench what meat shee hath in the house.

12 Rog. She hath a Hen, a Pig, bacon, cheese, and milke-pottage.

13 Vpr. Thats verie good for vs now wee haue drunke, lets steale somewhat: yonder dwels a churlish cormorant, twere a good deed to rob him.

14 Rog. So we may chaunce to sit in the stockes, and bee either whipped, or had to prison, and there bee sharkled with bolts and fetters, and then to be hanged on the gallowes.

15 Vpr. The Deuill take thee, farewell and be hang'd.

More of this Canting, with other matters of more worthy note shall be handled by our Belman at his second walking vp and downe the Cittie.

FINIS.

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